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# あしたのジョー16

KC

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや

講談社
コミックス
450

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雑誌46340-70

定価450円(本体437円)

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★★★★★★★

たび重なるダウンを不屈の闘志ではねかえし、ジョーは遂に東洋の王座を獲得した！　リングに命を賭ける男のあくなき執念と闘魂を描く、人気最高のボクシング巨編堂々の第十六弾！

オリジナルデザイン／水野石文
（水野プロダクション）

★★★★★★★

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# 16

# あしたのジョー

Written by Asao Takamori (Kajiwara Ikki)
Drawn by Chiba Tetsuya

〝殺し屋丈〟の異名をもつ野性のボクサー矢吹丈は、宿敵の力石徹を倒し、さらに世界六位の強豪カーロス・リベラに再起不能のダメージを与えて、いまは世界への飛躍を期待される人気ボクサーにのしあがっていた。

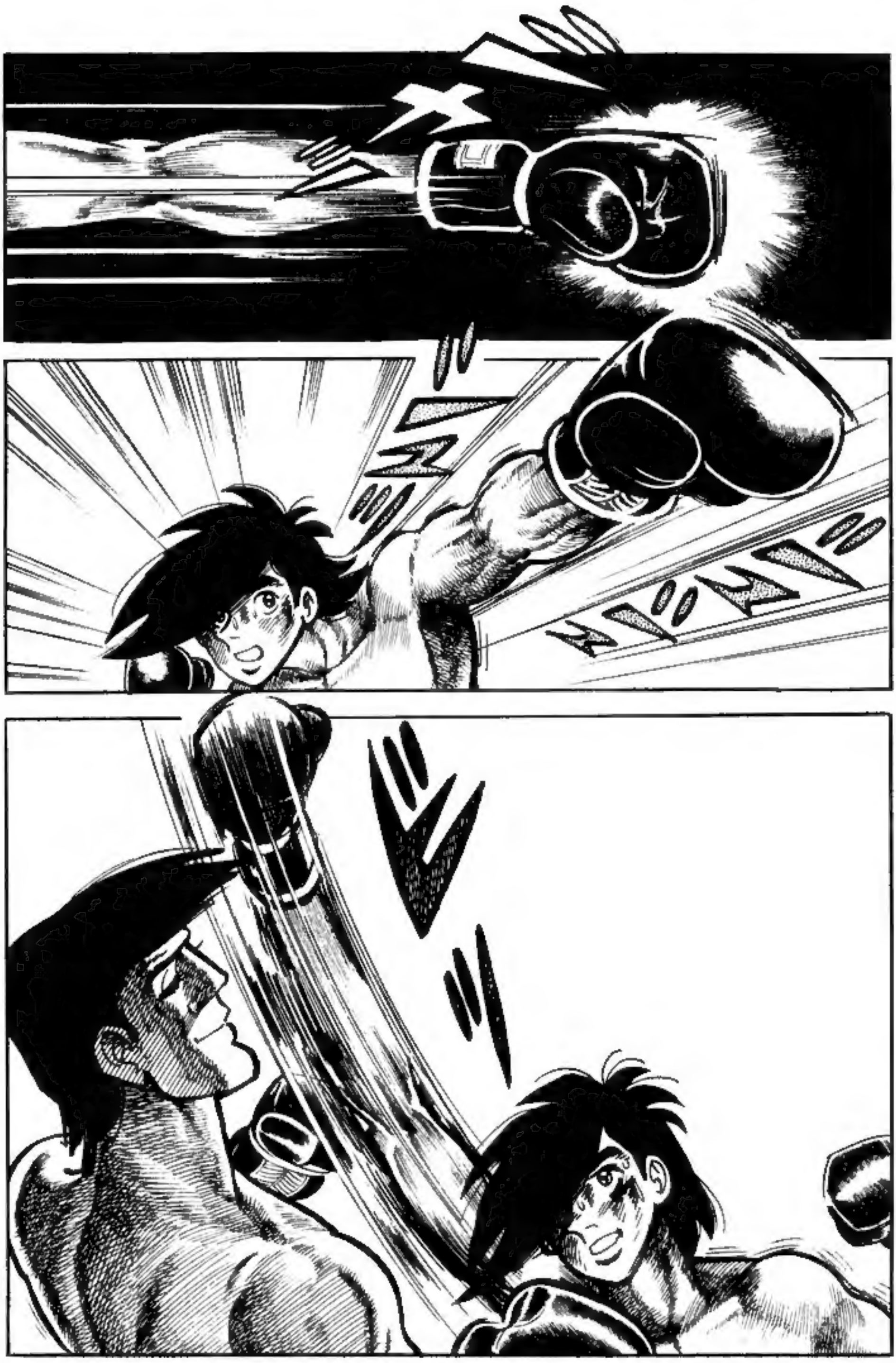
折から、韓国の東洋バンタム級チャンピオン金竜飛が来日し、丈は金に挑戦してはじめてのタイトルマッチを行なうことになった。

だが、成長期の丈の体重はいつかバンタム級をはるかにオーバーしていた。

きびしい食事制限とトレーニング。地獄のような減量苦の日が続いたが、丈は不屈の精神で克服し、試合直前にからくも体重検査に合格した。

そしていま、大敵金との王座を賭けての一戦は開始されたのだった……。

## ★前巻までのあらすじ★

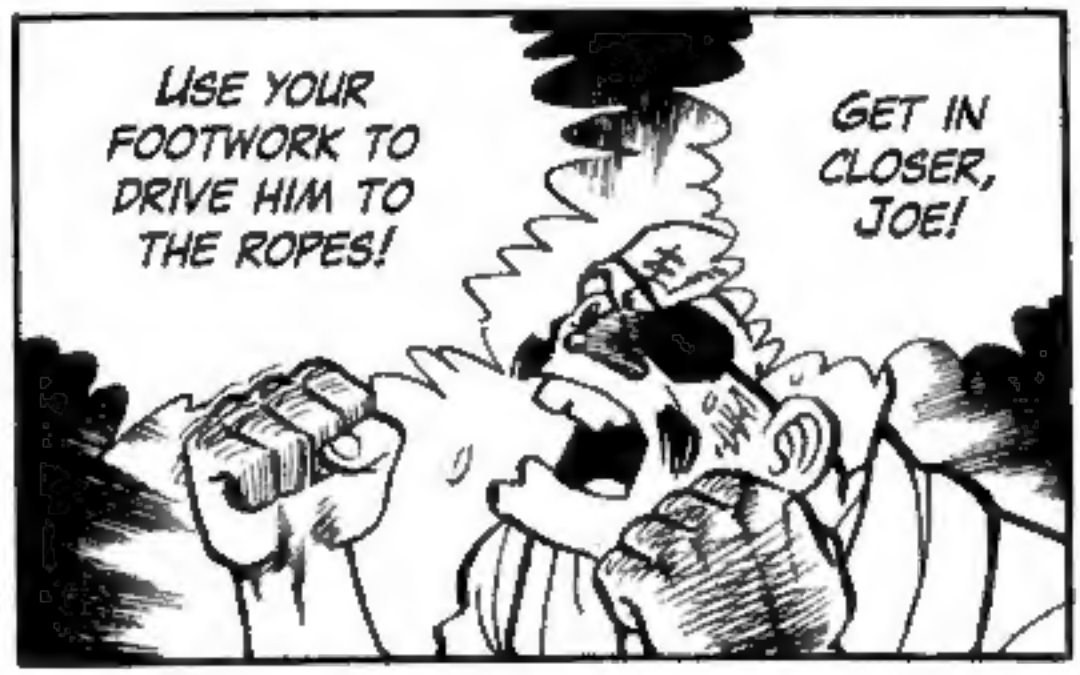


DAMMIT!

WAKE THE HELL UP OUT THERE!
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HIT HIM ONCE SO FAR!
WHAT THE HELL, YABUKI!

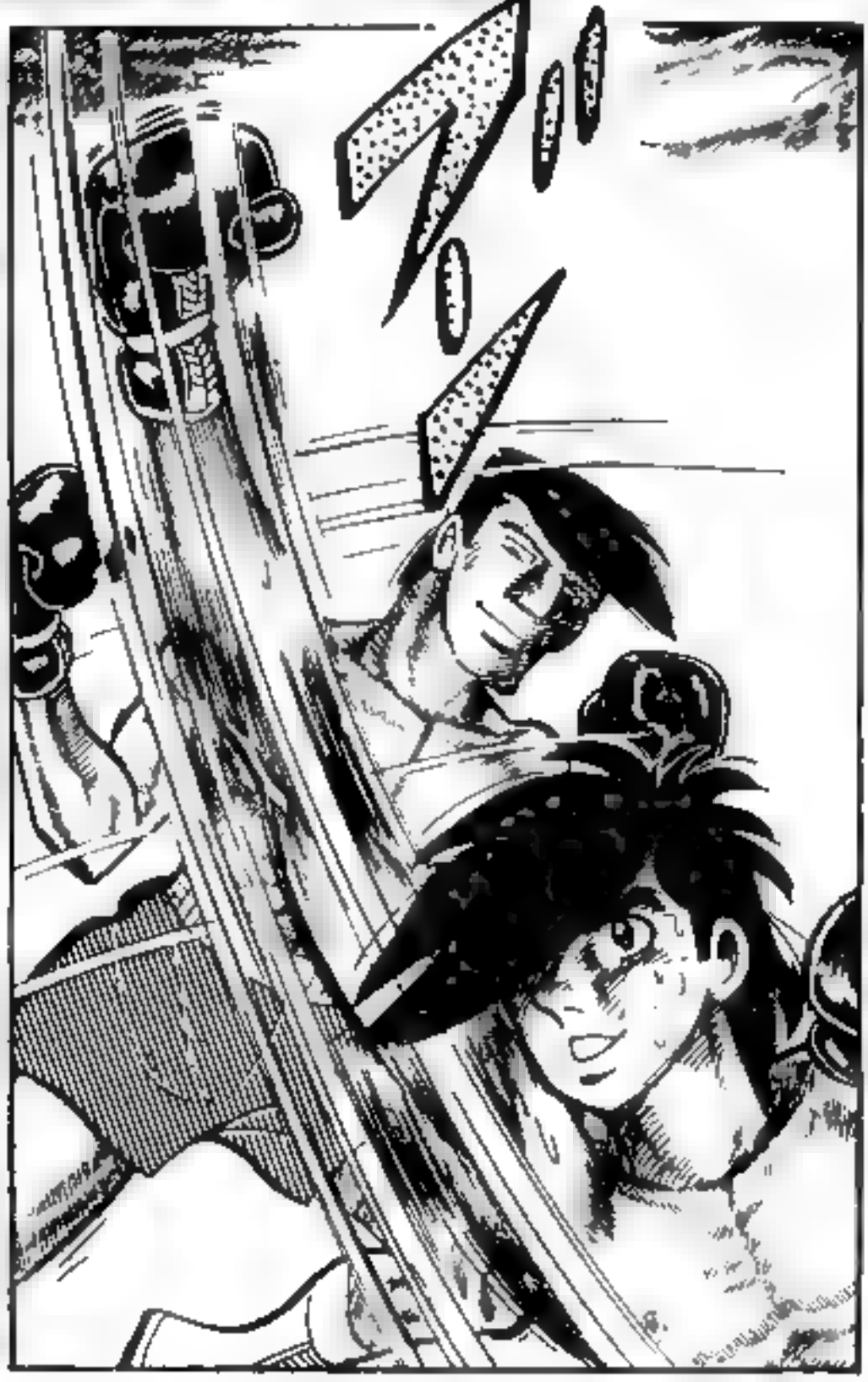
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

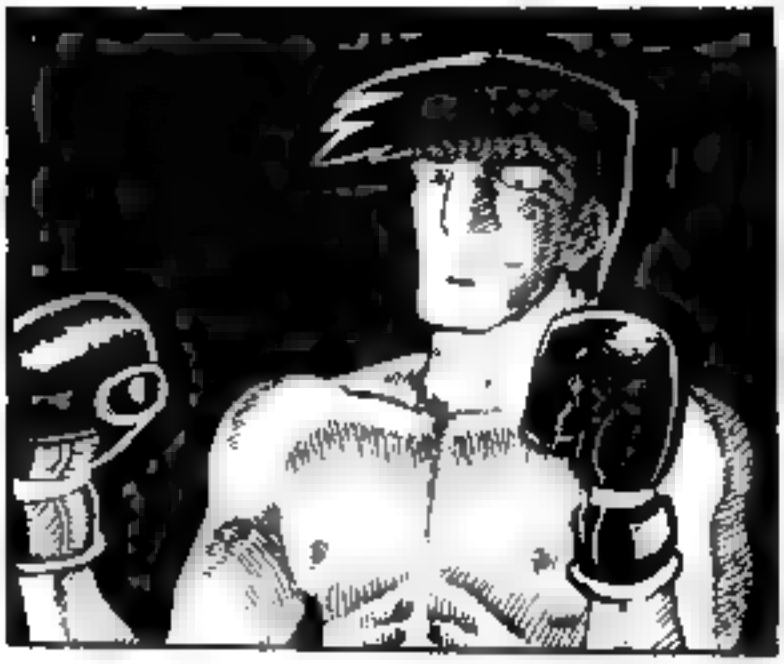
HUFF
HUFF


USE YOUR FOOTWORK TO DRIVE HIM TO THE ROPES!
GET IN CLOSER, JOE!

NGH-

W-WHA!

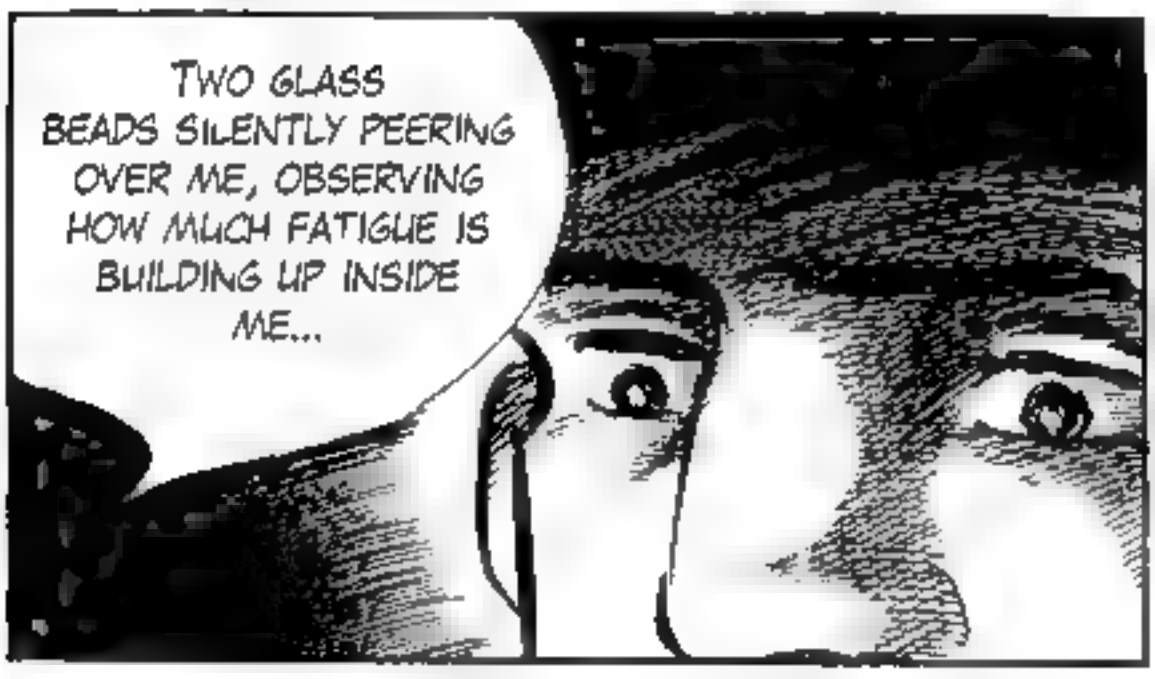




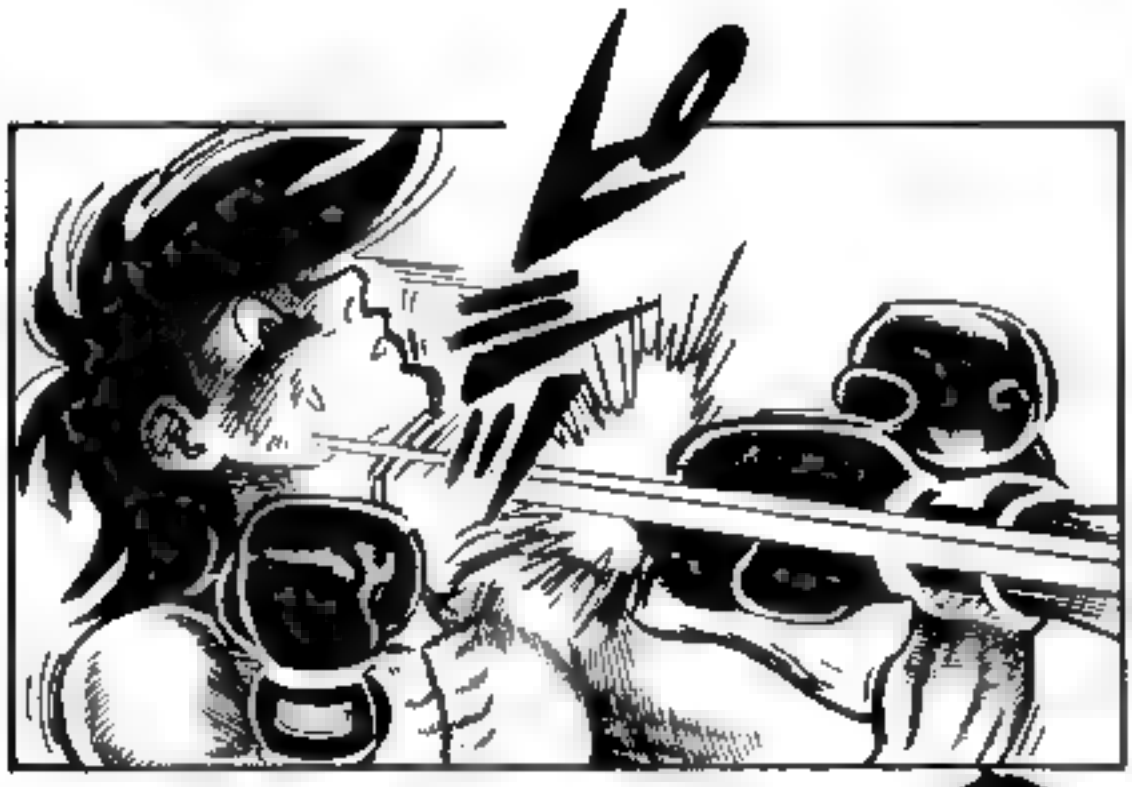
PANT
PANT

MN...

THEY'RE LIKE GLASS BEADS...
DAMN IT, WHAT'S WITH THOSE EYES OF HIS...


TWO GLASS BEADS SILENTLY PEERING OVER ME, OBSERVING HOW MUCH FATIGUE IS BUILDING UP INSIDE ME...

....
....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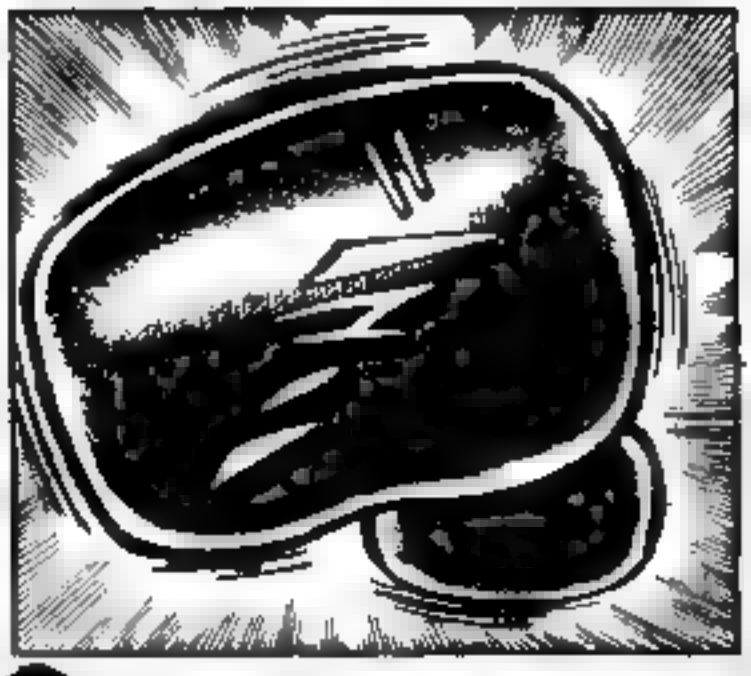
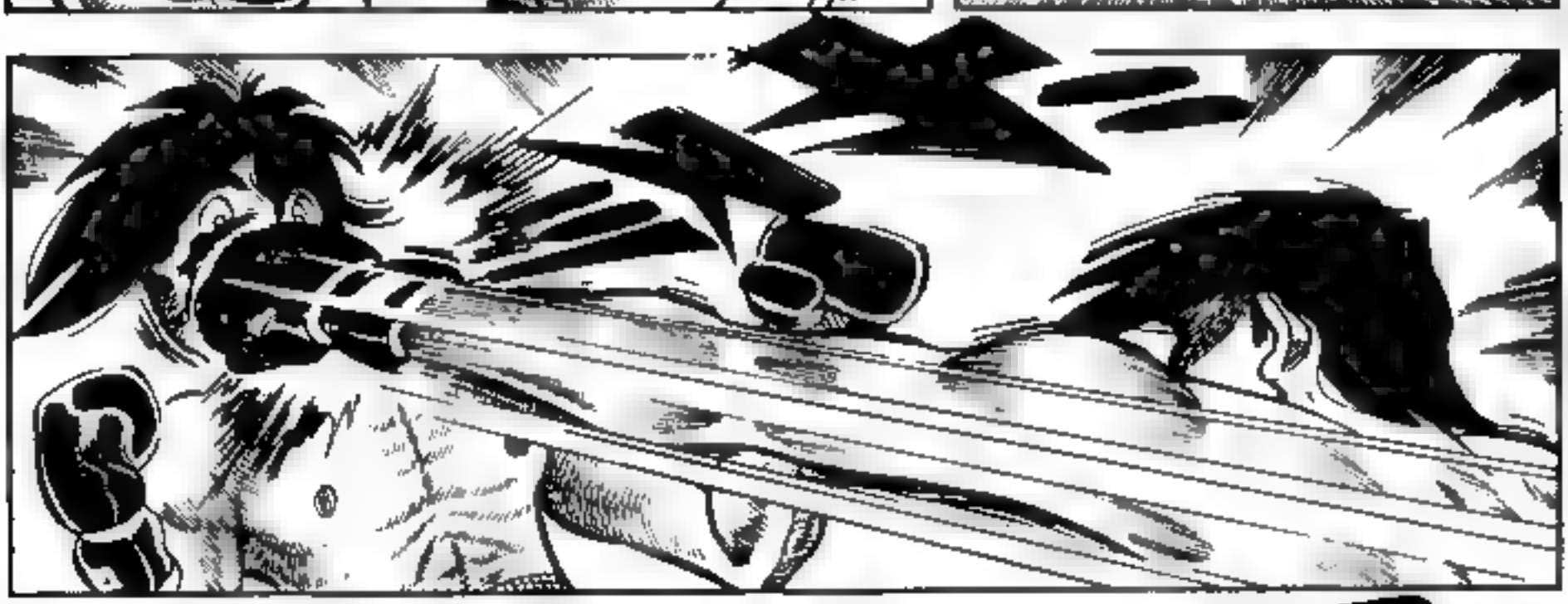
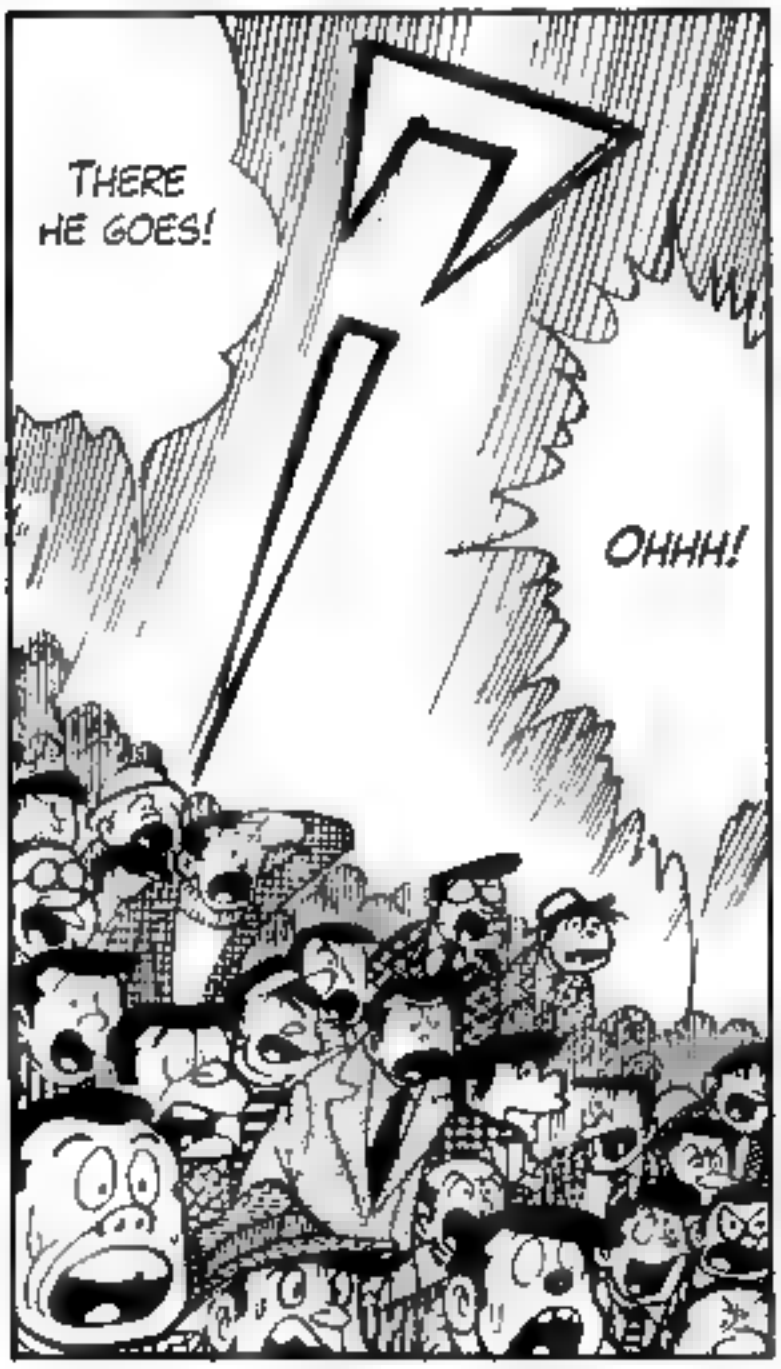





THERE HE GOES!
OHHH!

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

N-NOO, JOE!

...

K-K-K-K

UGHH...

STOP!

STOP!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE BELL RING!?

D-DAMN IT...!

C'MON, THEN! BACK TO OUR CORNER!

YOU IDIOT! YOU LET HIM WALK ALL OVER YOU 'CAUSE YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

JOE!

HAHA, JUST LOOK AT THAT GLARE...

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOU CAN JUST HEAR HIS GEARS CLICKING AND WHIRRING.

LOOK AT THAT MACHINE CALCULATING HOW MUCH DAMAGE I'VE TAKEN.

BOTH PLAYERS RETURN TO YOUR CORNERS AT ONCE!

W-WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING!?

LET'S GO..

LIFT YOUR CHIN UP!
OBSERVE ALL YOU WANT.
...FATIGUE - 5, DAMAGE - 3, YOU'RE THINKIN', RIGHT?
WHAT?
DON'T THROW IN THE TOWEL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
OH, LET ME SAY ONE THING IN ADVANCE, OLD MAN...

GOT IT?

THAT'S NO MATTER WHAT,

. . . .

IF YOU DO, I'LL KILL YOU ON THE SPOT.

I SAID DON'T THROW IN THE TOWEL.

I'LL GO!

J-JOE, WHAT'RE YOU THIN-

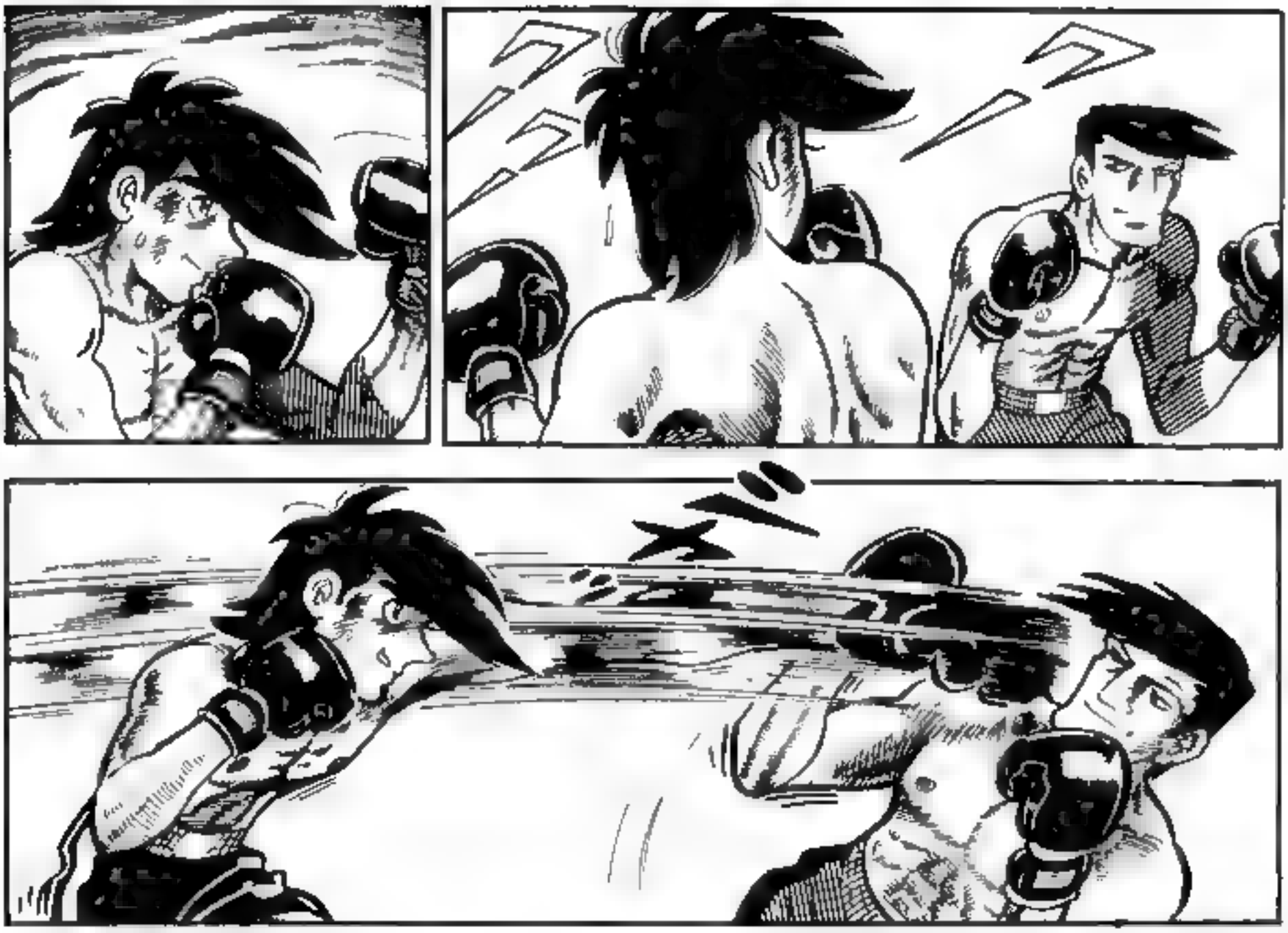
FIGHT!

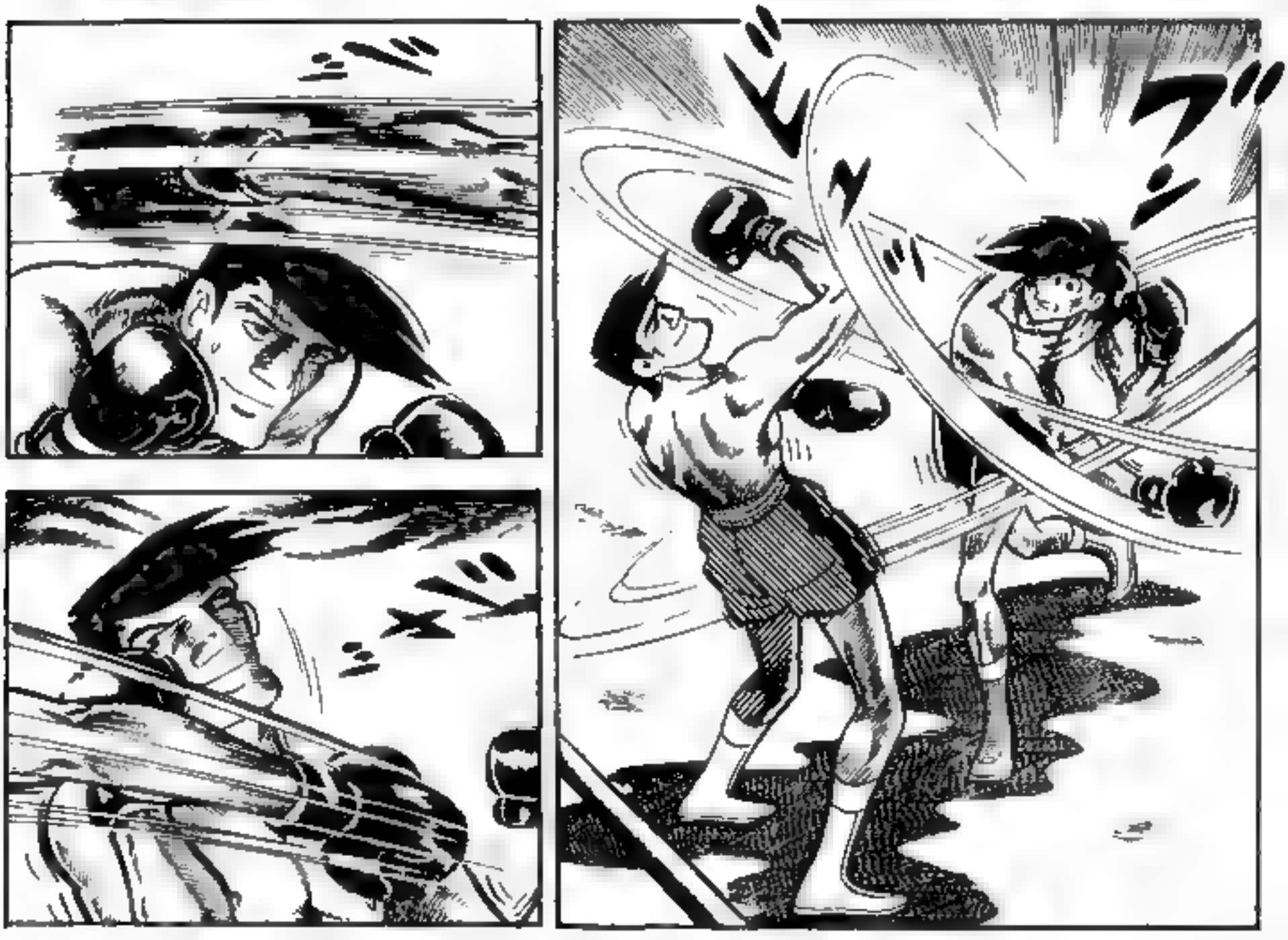
HEH.

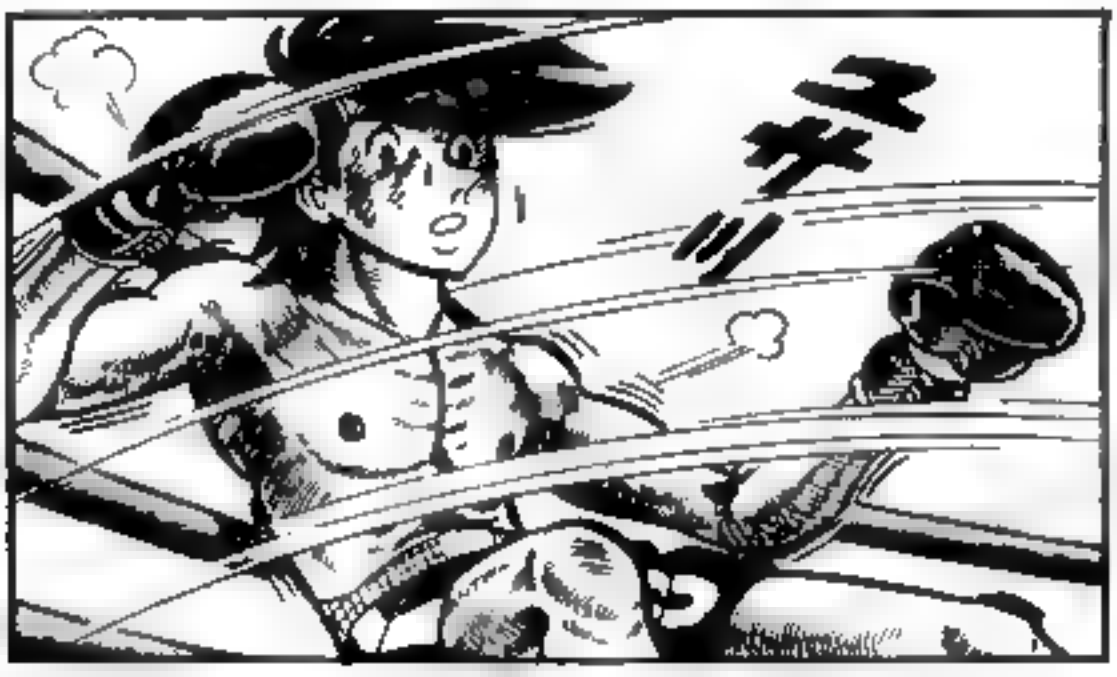
WE ALL CAME HERE TO SEE YOU SMASH THAT COMPUTER!

ENOUGH WITH THE EMPTY SWINGS AND HIT SOMETHING THIS ROUND, YABUKI!

YEAH, SO GET YOUR GAME ON ALREADY!







HUFF
HUFF

NOT AGAIN!
AHHH!

I AIN'T HITTING ANYTHING IF MY FEET CAN'T KEEP UP...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SWING AT HIM,

MY FEET CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM...
D... DAMN IT,

TALK ABOUT PATHE-

DID ALL THAT FASTING SLOW ME DOWN THIS MUCH...?

S-SON OF A..

ARGHH!

BUT THE MOMENT I GET TIRED AND STOP, HE CLOSES THE DISTANCE AND ATTACKS. .

HE... HE STEPS ASIDE WHEN I ATTACK,

SHIT!

HEH

DAMN YOU...

YABUKI SUFFERS HIS FIRST DOWN ALREADY IN THE 2ND ROUND!

D-DOWN!

JOE...!

AHHHH!

AHH...

ONE!

TWO!

THREE!

FIVE!

FOUR!

SIX!

S-SENPAI...

OH NO...

JOE...

SEVEN!

. . . .

YOUR GLOVES NEED TO BE WIPED!

HOLD UP, YABUKI!

EIGHT!

MAN, WHAT'S WITH HIM TONIGHT? HE'S ALREADY STUMBLING OUT THERE.

WHEW, HE FINALLY STOOD UP.

YEAH, AND IT'S ONLY THE START OF THE SECOND ROUND TOO!

RESUME FIGHT!

O-OKAY THEN..

PANT...

PANT

PANT

GOD...

NGHH-

DAMMIT!

HEH

AGHH-

SENDING HIS FOE DOWN AGAIN!

AFTER BIDING HIS CHANCE, KIM LANDS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTER,

Y-YABUKI GOES DOWN FOR THE SECOND TIME!

AHHH...

AHHHHHH!

WHAT A PUNCH!

H-HE'S DOWN AGAIN!

THREE!

FOUR!

FIVE!

EIGHT!

I-IS HE... ALREADY FINISHED...?

SEVEN!

SIX!

I CAN FIGHT.

ユサッ

NINE!

I'M... I'M STANDIN', AIN'T I...?

A-ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT?

HE BEAT THE COUNT-DOWN BUT.. HE ALREADY LOOKS FINISHED TO ME.

ふ…

HE STOOD UP...

FIGHT!

COME.

PANT

PANT

PANT

AHH-

I SAID COME, YOU STUFFED FOOL.

THERE...
WE GO!
KA-KI

HOW'S THIS?
AND THAT?
THIS IS HOW YOU HIT SOMEONE, BRAWLER JOE.
KA
KA
KA

TAKE THIS!

AND THAT!

YABUKI'S IN A CRITICAL SITUATION!

AHHH! KIM UNLEASHES A FLURRY OF PUNCHES AS FAST AS THE WIND!

K-KIM SEEMS TO BE GOING FOR THE FINISH IN THIS ROUND...

JOE...!

WHOA-

THAT'S THE END OF THE 2ND ROUND!

S-STOP!

GOTCHA.

THE CORNER'S THIS WAY.

HANG IN THERE, JOE.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE TRYING TO FINISH HIM OFF EARLIER THAN WE PLANNED.

YABUKI'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.

NICE RUSH THERE, YONG-BI.

GOOD

RIGHT.

GO FOR THE KO NEXT ROUND.

YOU ALREADY PREDICTED THE KO IN 6 ROUNDS SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT QUICK.

GET ME THE VASELINE!

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, JOE!?

THINGS SEEM VIRTUALLY HOPELESS FOR YABUKI!

HIS CONDITION AFTER THE DRASTIC WEIGHT-LOSS IS FAR WORSE THAN WE'D HEARD.

IT'S HARD TO BUILD A GOOD RHYTHM WITHOUT ANY SPEED.

BUT WITH HIS SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISHED STAMINA, HE FAILED TO LAND EVEN A SINGLE JAB.

Y-YABUKI TRIED HIS BEST BY GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE EARLY,

I WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.

IF THIS KEEPS UP..

NOTHING'S WORKING ON HIM.

AND WHEN I RUN OUTTA BREATH, HE'S UP RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE TO PUMMEL ME.

HE DODGES WHEN I COME AT HIM,

WELL AIN'T THAT IRONIC..

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

A SUICIDAL CHARGE, HUH.

IT'S FAR BETTER TO HEDGE YOUR BETS ON A SUICIDAL CHARGE THAN LETTING YOUR ENERGY GET SAPPED FROM A DISTANCE AND LOSING!

LISTEN! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW, JUST GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO HIM!

I BASHED MY OWN FATHER'S HEAD OPEN WITH A ROCK.

THAT I KILLED ANOTHER HUMAN BEING OVER A SMALL MORSEL OF FOOD.

THE FACT RE-MAINS,

THE WORLD OF BOXING IS A MERE CHILD'S PLAY.

HA HAHA...

I'M A MAN WHOSE HANDS ARE STAINED WITH HIS FATHER'S BLOOD

HIS BOXING IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MINE...

COMPARED TO HOW I STARTED AND CONTINUED BOXING JUST FOR THE SAKE OF MY WORTHLESS PRIDE,

A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO PLAYERS WEARING SPONGY GLOVES AND PROTECTED BY RULES... BOXING REALLY IS A PEACEFUL WORLD WHEN YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY.

HE'S RIGHT

THE BELL JUST RANG!

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER!?

NOT EVEN COMPARABLE...

HOW AM I S'POSED TO WIN...

JOE...

ARE YOU PLANNING ON FORFEITING!?

WHAT THE HELL, YABUKI!

DO YOU EVEN WANT TO FIGHT!?

I HOPE YOU LOSE!

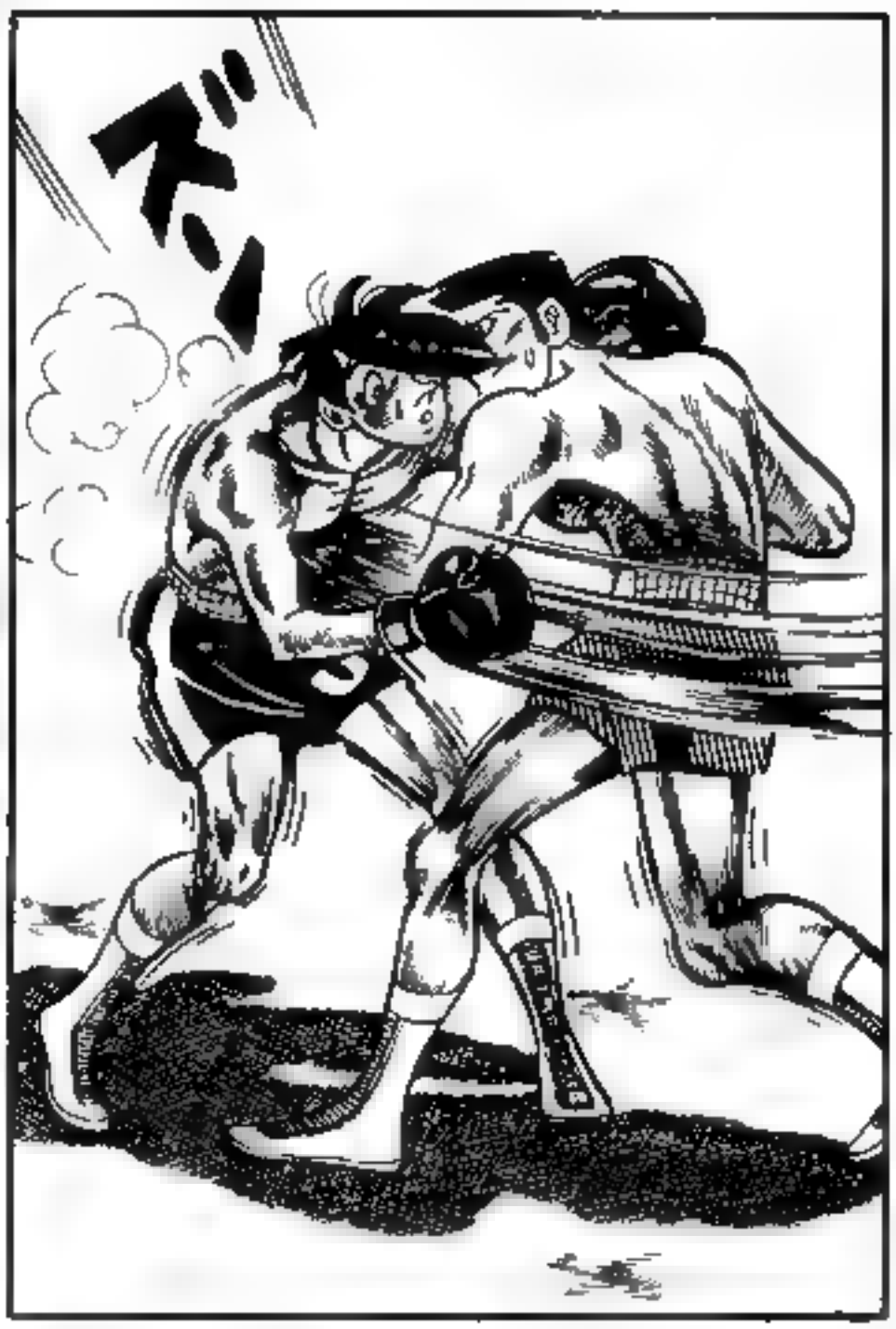
FINISH HIM...

I REPEAT, DO NOT THROW ANY OBJECTS!
P-PLEASE DO NOT THROW OBJECTS ONTO THE RING!

DIE, YOU STUFFED FOOL!

AHH...

ワルロ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ン

TURN ASIDE!

DON'T STAND STILL!

USE YOUR FEET!

T-THIS IS HARD TO WATCH...

AHHHH!

HE'S A HUMAN SANDBAG OUT THERE!

ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET KIM WALK ALL OVER YOU!?

OH C'MON! WHAT THE HELL!

WAKE UP OUT THERE!

FOR THE FINISH!

AND NOW,

U...
UGH...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

B-BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

HE'S SHOWING NO SIGNS OF MOVING!

Y-YABUKI GOES DOWN!

HE'S LIKE A SANDBAG THAT DROPPED AFTER ITS ROPES WERE CUT

OH DEAR...

HUFF

HEH

2!

1!

3!

4!

5!

PANT

PANT

PANT

6!

HUFF HUFF

NICE FINISH...

L-LOOK! HE'S TRYING TO STAND BACK UP!

AH-

7!

S-SENPAI...

JOE...

8!

HE GETS UP AT THE COUNT-DOWN OF 8!

AS HE BLANKLY CONTINUES TO STARE AT KIM YONG-BI!

YABUKI STANDS,

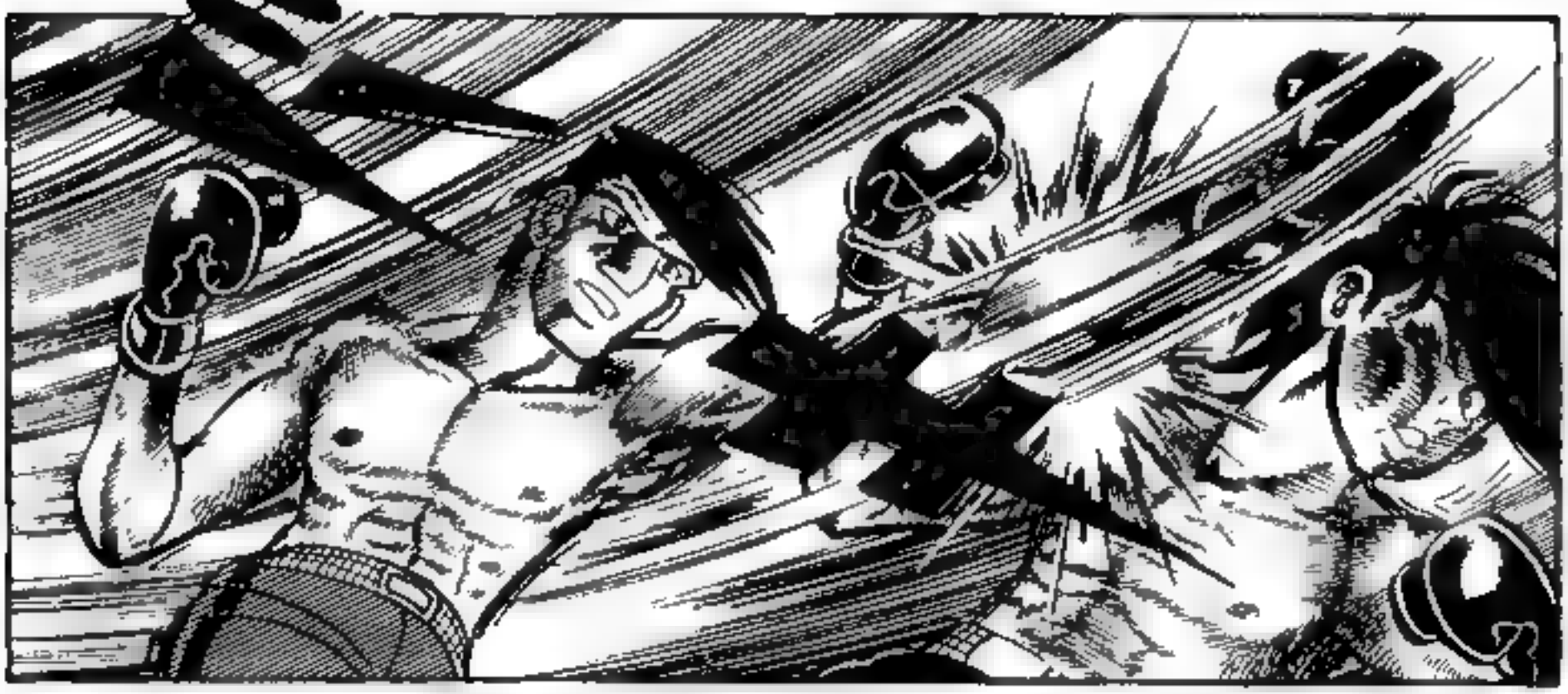
HAHA... JUST MANAGED... TO STAND UP...

...

BUT... FEELS LIKE I STOOD UP... ONLY TO GO DOWN AGAIN...

FIGHT!

KNOWING FULLY WELL I CAN'T BEAT KIM...?
JUST WHY DID I STAND UP,
BUT,



UGH...

UGHH-

AHH!

MAN, WHAT A PUNCH!
H-HE'S DOWN AGAIN!
I CAN'T WATCH THIS...

GO BACK TO YOUR CORNER!
S-STOP!

N-NO, WAIT!

WHAT A PITY.

TO THINK THAT YABUKI WOULD GO DOWN SO HELPLESSLY...

JUST WHEN HE MANAGED TO STAND UP, KIM PUMMELS HIM DOWN ONCE AGAIN!

YABUKI'S DOWN FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS ROUND ALONE!

THIS IS HOPELESS... I FEAR THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR YABUKI THIS TIME.

6!

5!

4!

"DO"

...

7!

ズル

MN...

HE STOOD UP AGAIN...!

H-HE...

AHH-

AHHHH...

FEW

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, YABUKI?

...

WHY DID I GET UP...?

W... WHY...

GOT... UP... AGAIN...

F-FIGHT!

FOR WHAT REASON...?

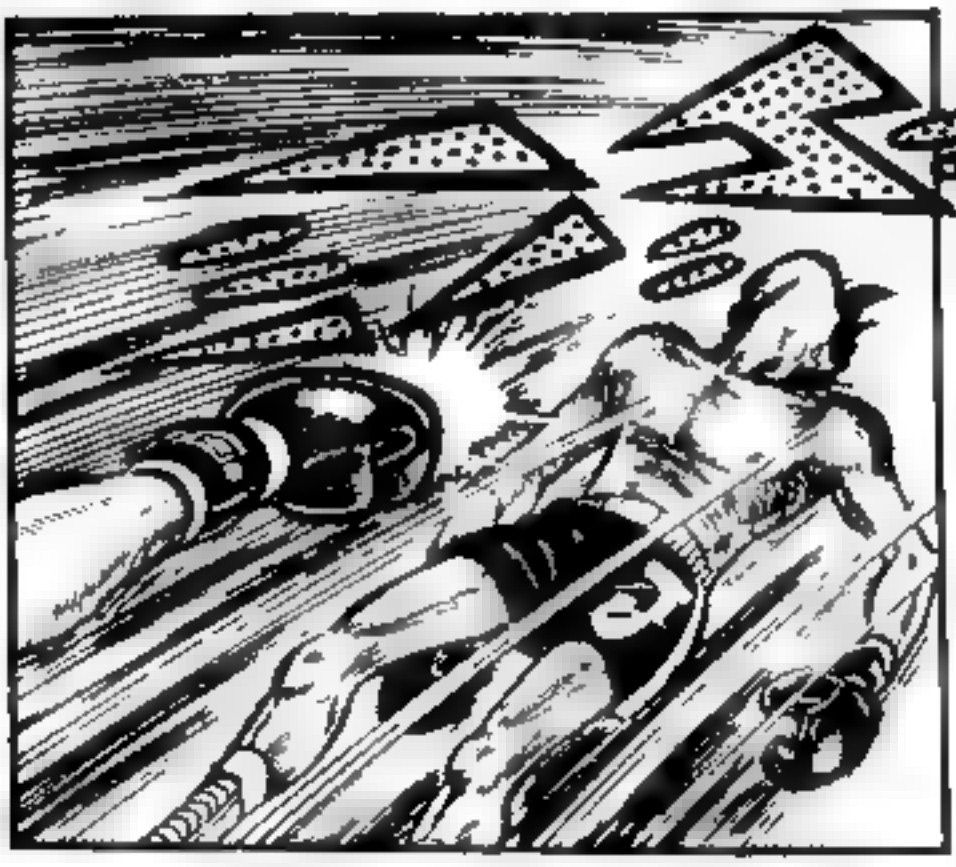
NGHHH-

HAHH!

YOU'VE GOTTA THROW IN THE TOWEL!
P-PREZ! WE CAN'T LET HIM KEEP FIGHTING!

IF HE GOES DOWN ONE MORE TIME, THAT'LL BE 3 DOWNS IN ONE ROUND, MEANING A KO-LOSS FOR YABUKI!
KIM FIERCELY ATTACKS YABUKI!

HE'S GONNA DIE AT THIS R-
DAM-MIT,



DAMN YOU...
GETTING... SO COCKY AFTER LETTING MYSELF GET HIT FOR A BIT...
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!

YOU...

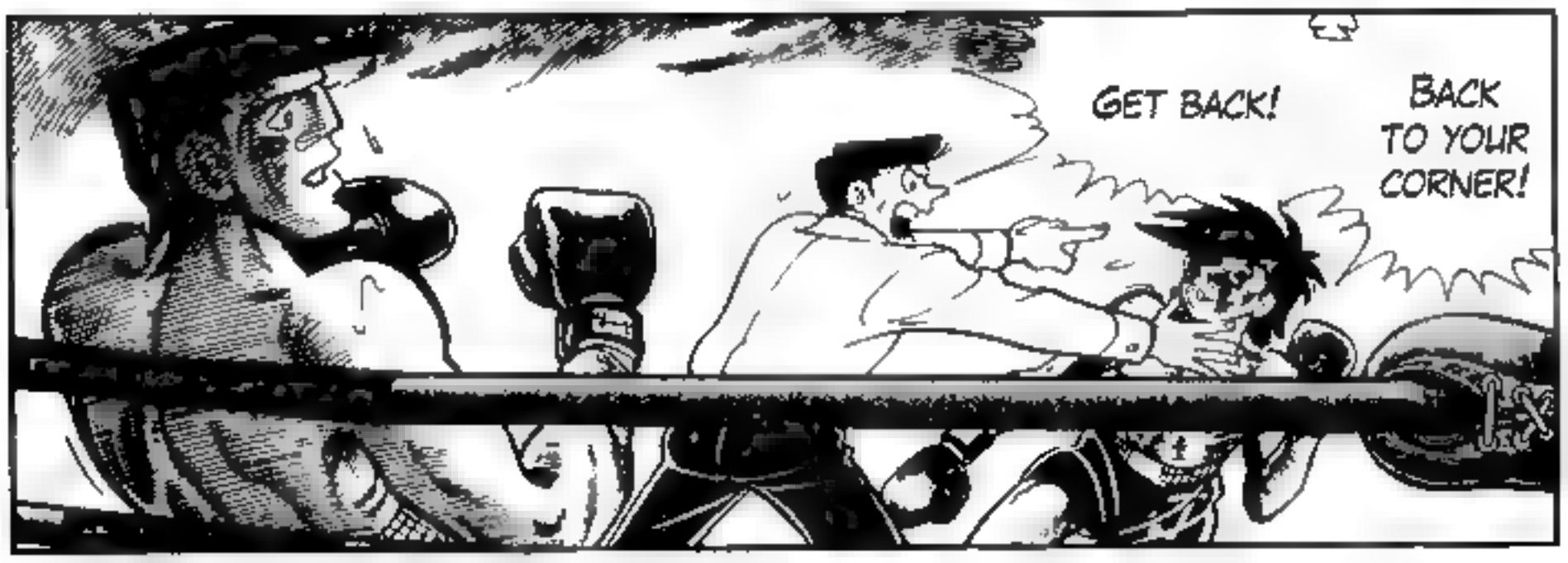
OHHHH!

AHH-

BASTARD!

THAT WAS THE BELL!
S-STOP!

ドカバキ


GET BACK!
BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 3 ROUNDS, YABUKI MANAGES TO RETURN WITH SOME STRONG PUNCHES OF HIS OWN!

A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE BY YABUKI!

JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...

N-NICE ONE, YABUKI!

WOO-HOO!

Y-YOU DID IT, JOE!

NICELY DONE!

FINALLY, HE STRIKES BACK!

YONG-BI...

WELL?
YOU FINALLY LOOKED LIKE YOURSELF OUT THERE! WHY COULDN'CHA DO THAT SOONER!?
JUST KEEP GOING LIKE THAT!

I... MISCALCULATED, COL. HYUN.

LETTING YOURSELF GET HIT LIKE THAT... IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

AND YET HE DOES... OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO STAND BACK UP,

NORMALLY, TAKING THAT MUCH DAMAGE SHOULD RENDER BOTH HIS PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE HOPELESS...

IT'S BAFFLING.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE DRAWS SUCH TENACITY FROM...

IT WAS A MISCALCULATION ON MY PART AS WELL.

HE DIDN'T JUST STAND UP, HE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO ATTACK.

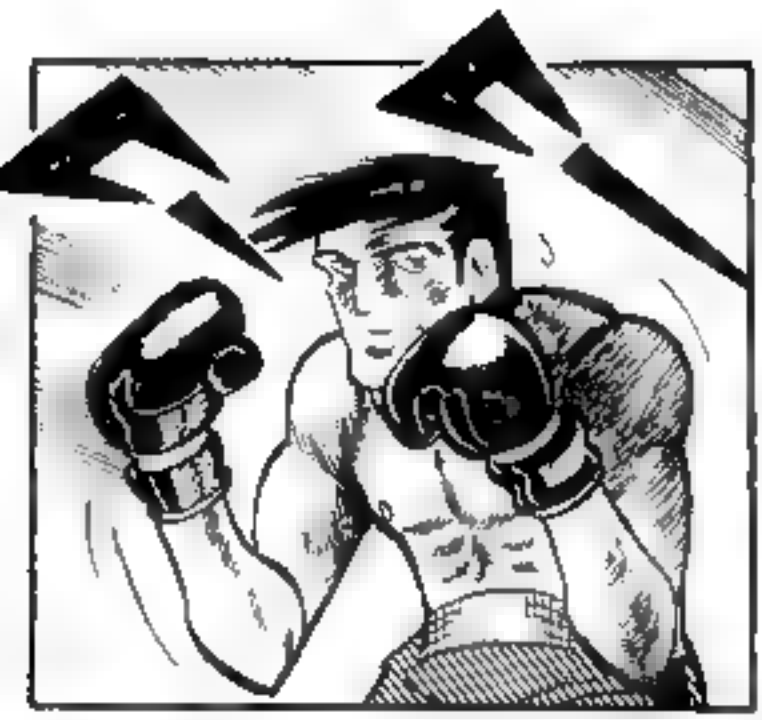
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.

IN ANY CASE, OUR ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO FINISH IN THE 6TH ROUND SO WE'VE STILL GOT 3 ROUNDS LEFT.

LET'S JUST CALMLY PROCEED WHILE OBSERVING HIS CONDITION.

DRAW HIM INTO YOUR OWN PACE LIKE YOU DID LAST ROUND!

GO, JOE!

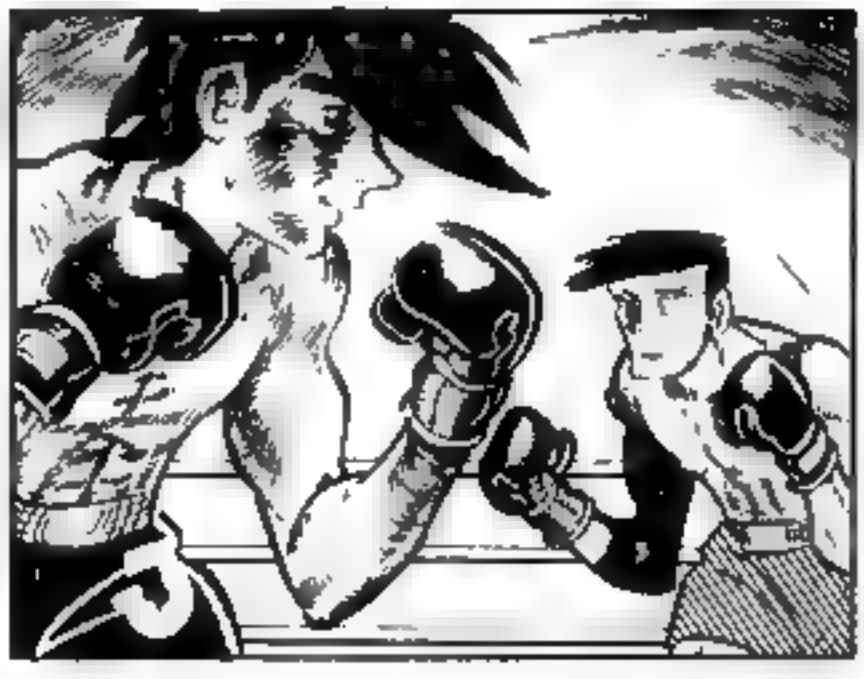


C'MON YABUKI! SHOW US ANOTHER RUSH LIKE BEFORE!

KNOCK KIM DOWN!

IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO RETURN KIM THE FAVOUR! CHAAARGE!

ATTACK! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!



ANY STAMINA... TO BEGIN WITH...

N... NEVER HAD...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU! DON'T JUST SPACE OUT THERE!

YOU'VE GOTTA ATTACK NOW BEFORE YOUR STAMINA COMPLETELY RUNS OUT!

THING I HAVE...

THE ONLY...

IS AN ODD DESIRE...

TO NOT LOSE TO THIS GUY NO MATTER WHAT...!

AH-

WHOA!

BUT IN ANY CASE,

I'M NOT SURE... WHY I FEEL THAT WAY...

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU BEAT ME!

AHH-

AHHHH!

HIS LEGS ARE DEAD TIRED...

OH NO...

STAND BACK UP.

S-SLIP DOWN!

GO WITH THE CHUM-CHUM STRATEGY!

KIM!

I-ISN'T THAT GOING A LITTLE TOO FAR...?

ON THE ROPES!

CHUM-CHUM!

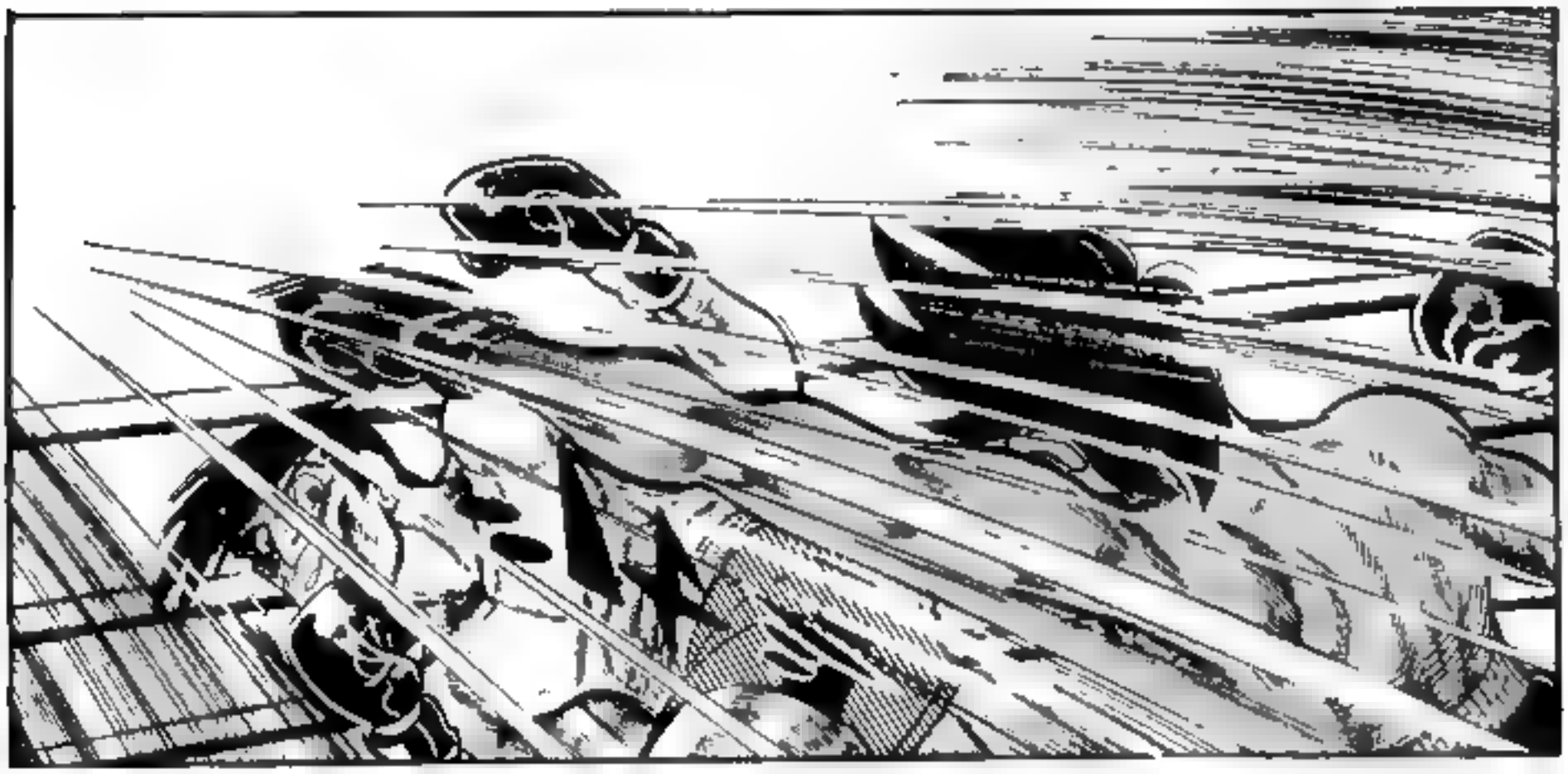
WHA-

DANCE...?

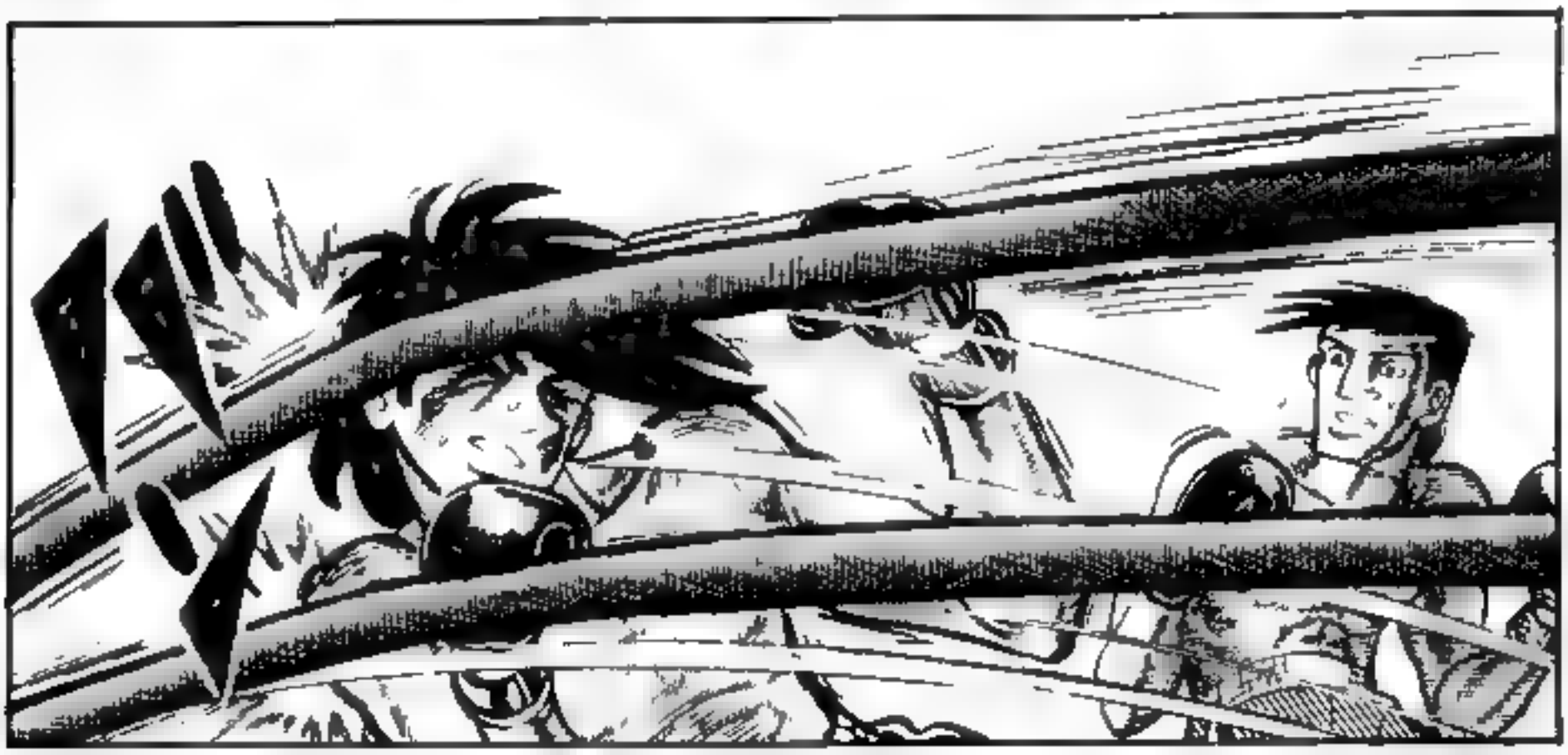
춤추게 하란 말이야! (I SAID MAKE HIM DANCE!)

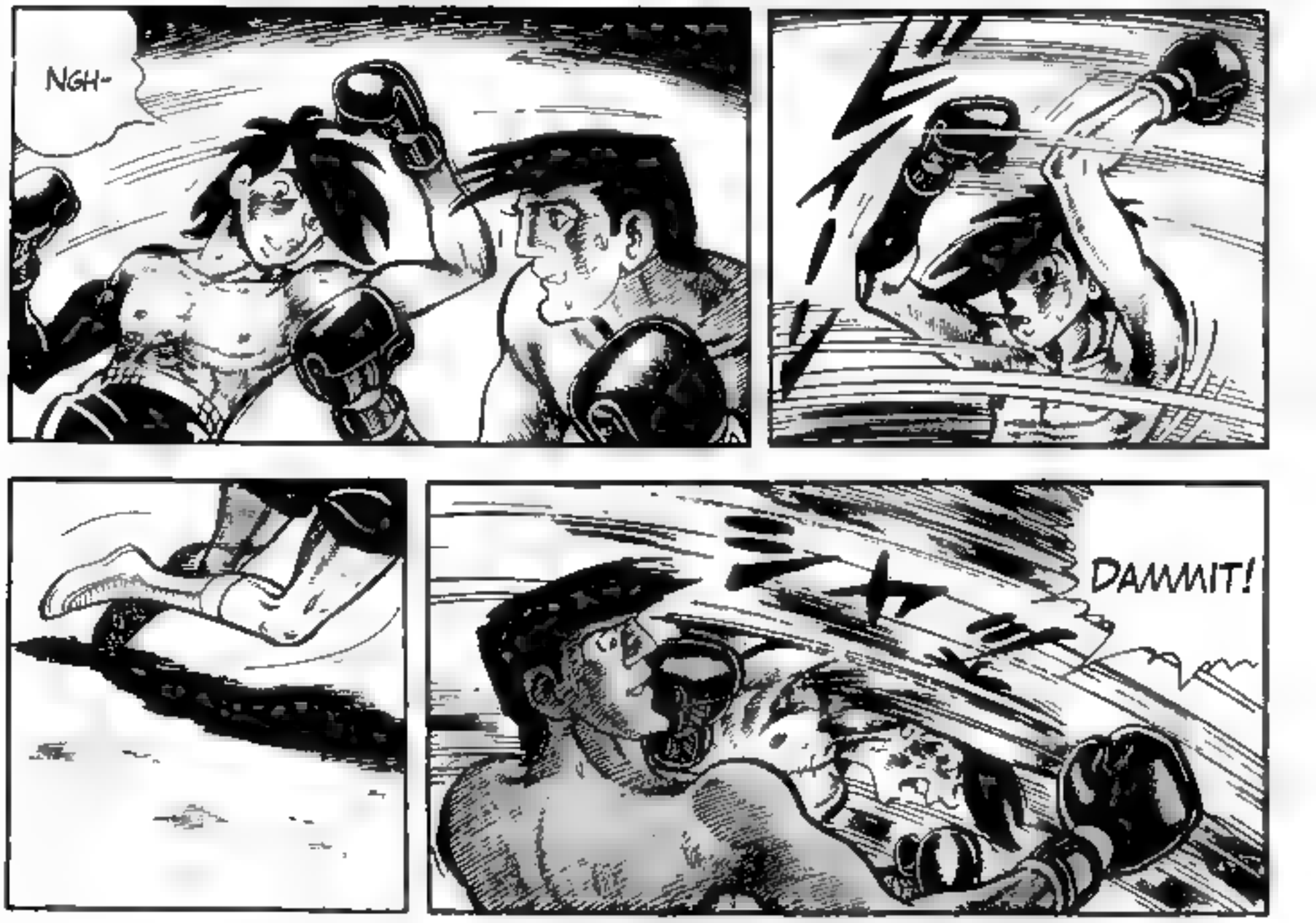
DON'T BUTT IN! JUST DO AS I SAY!

YOU THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE DURING A MATCH!?

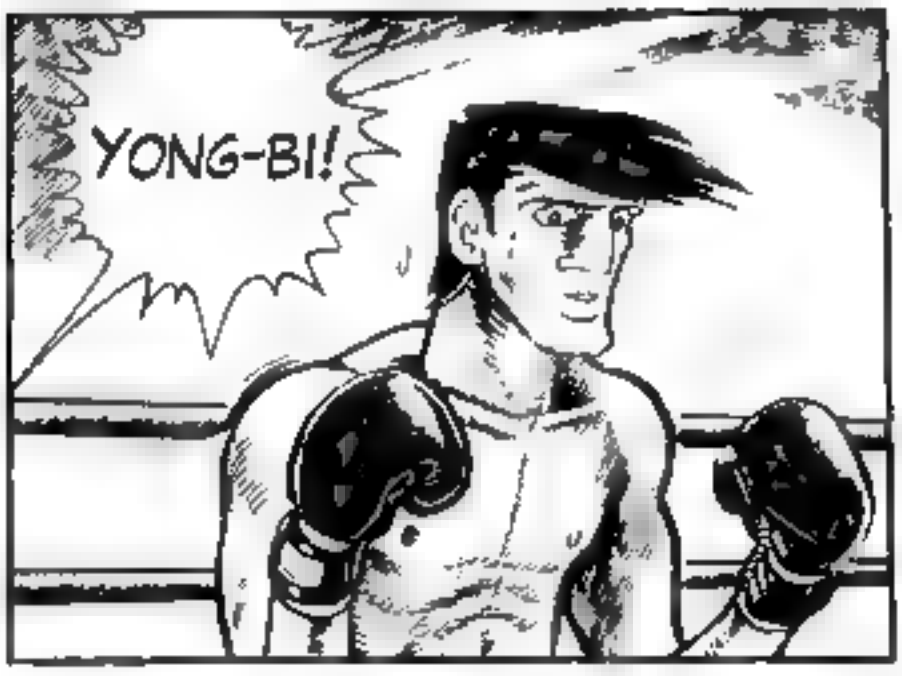


TAKE THIS!




NGH-
DAMMIT!
KO

HUFF
HUFF


YONG-BI!

SLIP DOWN!
STAND UP.
AHHH...

DO AS I SAY!
DID YOU HEAR ME!?

FIGHT!

...

HUFF

PANT

PANT

HUFF

HUFF

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HUFF

춤추게 해!
춤!
W... WHAT'S HE YELLING ABOUT ..?
....
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF!

STOP WASTING TIME! NOW'S YOUR BEST CHANCE!

GET IN THERE AND ATTACK!

I'VE NEVER HEARD ANY BOXING TERMINOLOGY LIKE THAT BEFORE.

KIM'S MANAGER HYUN JO-DAL'S IS YELLING CHUM FROM THE SIDES BUT WHAT COULD IT MEAN...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!? ARE YOU ALREADY ABOUT TO KICK THE BUCKET!?

IT'S KIM WHO KEEPS TRYING TO RUN AWAY...

I TRY TO ATTACK,

E... EVEN IF,

FIGHT!

ALRIGHT THEN...

HUFF

HUFF

NGH-

DARN IT!

AWWW...

THAT'S THE END OF ROUND 4!

STOP!

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS WITH YOU TONIGHT!?

YOU'VE NEVER DISOBEYED ME BEFORE.

WHAT'S WRONG!?

HIS... HIS EYES ARE STILL ALIVE...

RIGHT!

PASS ME THE SPONGE AND SOME WATER!

. . . .

BUT FOR SOME REASON, HIS EYES ALONE ARE STILL ALIVE.

HE SHOULD BE DRAINED BY NOW. BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

GO WITH THE CHUM-CHUM PLAN NEXT ROUND.

STOP SPOUTIN' NONSENSE AND JUST DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO.

NOT GOOD. YONG-BI'S CALCULATIONS ARE STARTING TO DEVIATE.

I HAVE TO MAKE HIM END THIS MATCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

. . . .

Y-YEAH...

WELL!?

DID YOU HEAR ME!?

IF YOU DON'T DO AS I TOLD YOU THIS NEXT ROUND, I'LL NO LONGER BE YOUR COACH!

YONG-BI!

STARTING THE 5TH ROUND!

YES, COL. HYUN...

Y-

.....

DRIVE HIM TO THE ROPES THIS TIME!

NOW GO!

LOOKING TO THE SIDES AGAIN, ARE YA...

AHH!

DON'T LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT HIM!

WHOA...

AH-

DAMN IT..

D...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THE MOMENT IT DIES OUT FOR GOOD?

WAS IT JUST A LAST BURST OF LIGHT A CANDLE GIVES OFF,

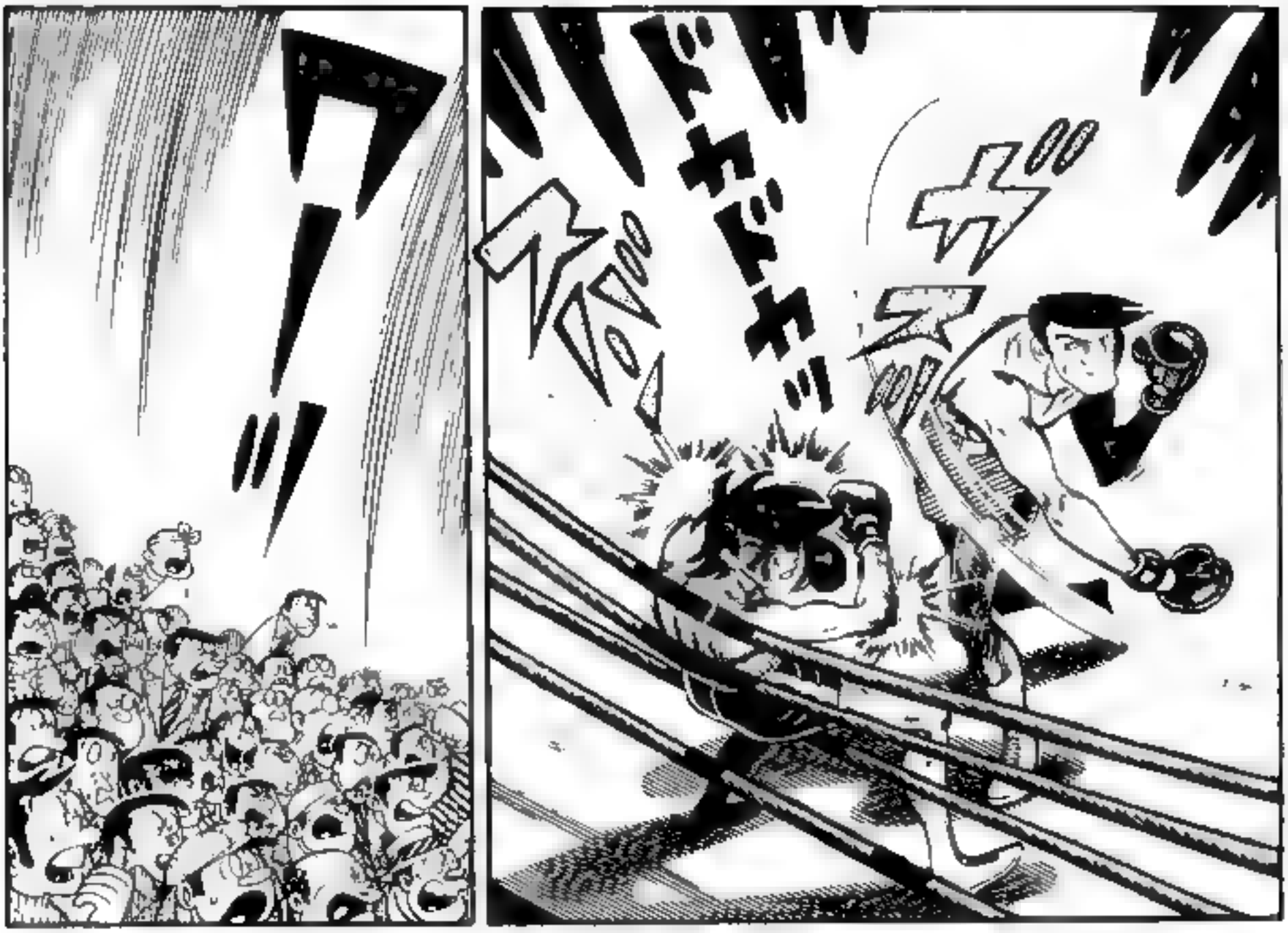
ATTACK EARLIER ON JUST A FLUKE?

W-WAS THAT...

W-WHAT'S WITH HIM STUMBLING EVERYWHERE...

HERE I GO THEN...

WITH THE "CHUM!"


ドドドド
AH-
HE'S CAUGHT YABUKI ON THE ROPES!
K-KIM YONG-BI UNLEASHES A FURIOUS ATTACK!
YES! THAT'S THE TIMING!
KIM LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS TIME...
H-HE'S DOING IT...

YOU'VE GOTTA GET OUTTA THERE!

JOE! DON'T LET YOUR FEET STOP!

WHY YOU...

HE'S COLLAP-

OHH MY! YABUKI'S KNEES ARE BENT!

ズ…

ズ…

ズ…

ズ…

ズ…

UP YOU GO.

I AIN'T DONE YET!

GAHH!

HAHA... AS IF MY BOY WOULD ALLOW THAT...

YOU'VE GOTTA FALL DOWN, JOE!

N-NO! JUST FALL DOWN!

AHHH...

Y-YABUKI CAN'T EVEN FALL DOWN...

AHHH! LOOK!

AND IF HE TRIES TO FALL TO THE FRONT, HE'S PROPPED BACK UP WITH AN UPPERCUT..

IF HE TRIES TO FALL DOWN TO THE RIGHT, HE'S PROPPED BACK UP WITH A LEFT HOOK...

T-THIS IS INSANE...

HEH HEH

TAKE THIS!

HIS ESCAPE ROUTE'S BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF... IT'S THE PERFECT TRAP

IF HE COULD ONLY GO DOWN, HE COULD AT LEAST REST UNTIL THE COUNT OF 8 OR 9...

IT'S AS IF KIM'S A PUPPETEER MAKING YABUKI DANCE WITH THOSE ROPES...

IT...

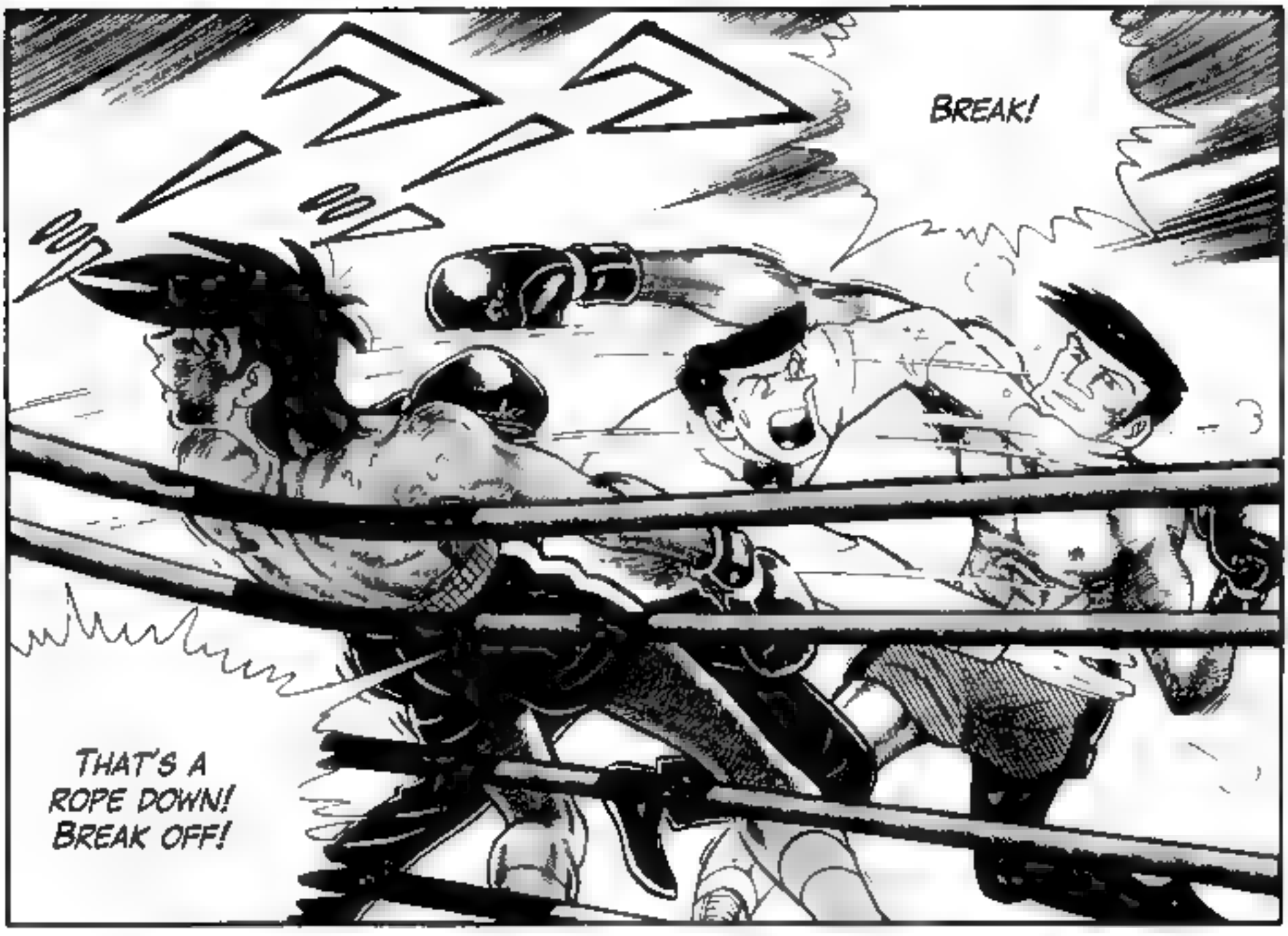
DANCE, YABUKI...

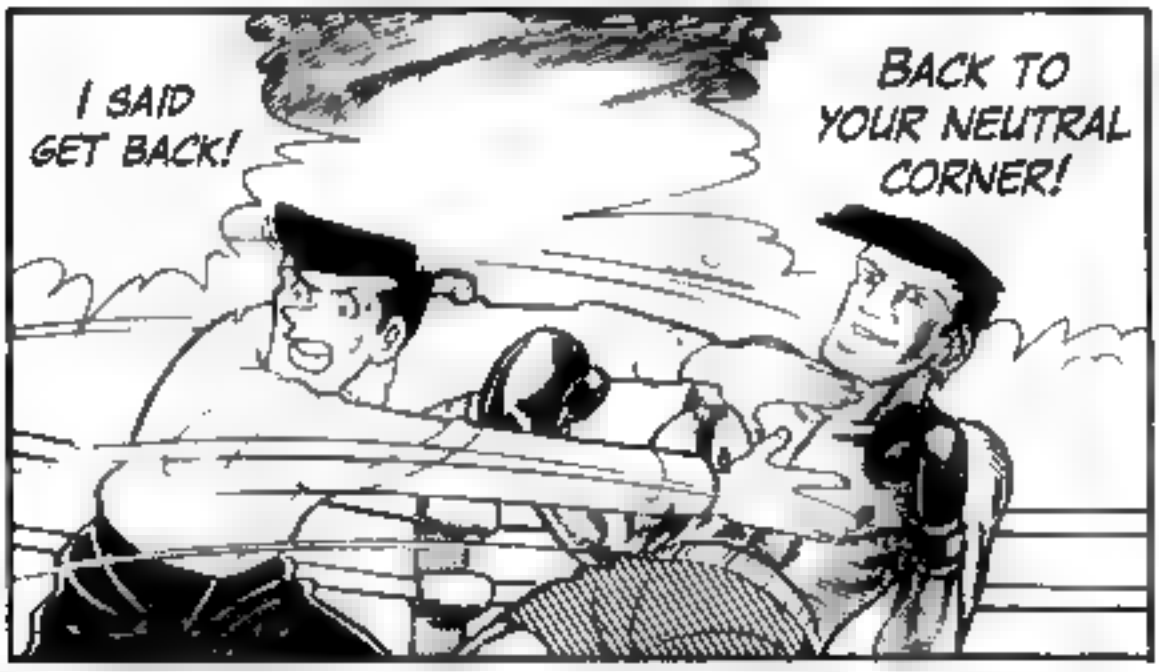
DANCE UNTIL YOU DIE, YABUKI...

FREEZES THE FLAMES.

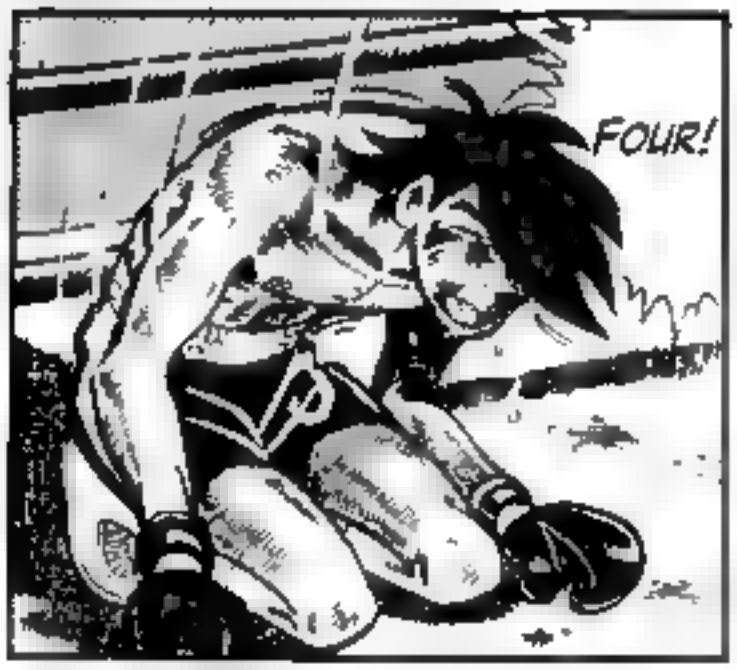
AND SO THE ICE,

J-JOE...!


BREAK!
THAT'S A ROPE DOWN! BREAK OFF!


I SAID GET BACK!
BACK TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNER!

TWO!
ONE!


FOUR!

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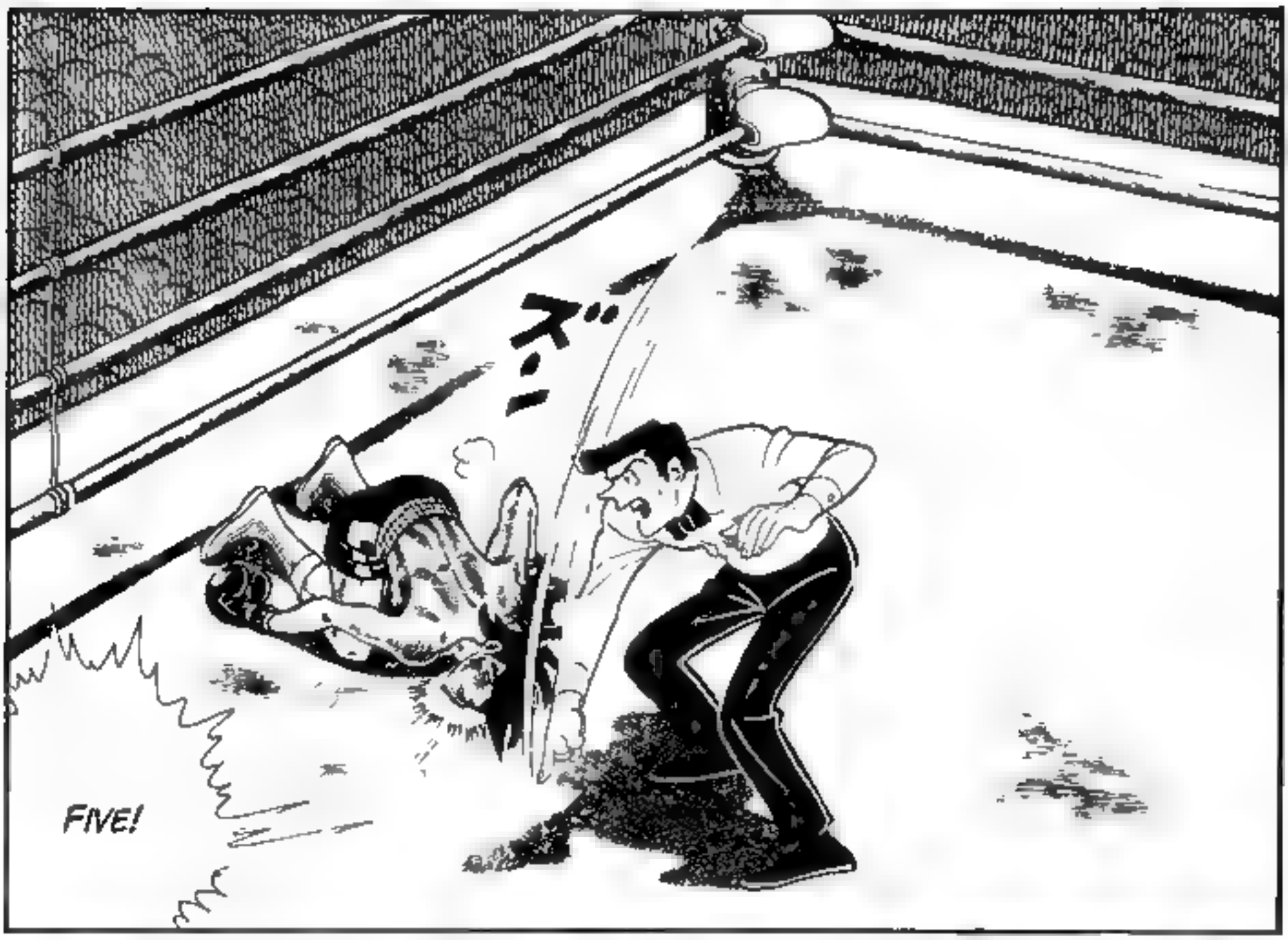
THREE!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FIVE!

HE'S DONE.

IT'S OVER.

GET THE SCISSORS AND ROBE OUT.

A-AHHH...

SIX!

SEVEN!

E-EIGHT...!

NINE...

YABUKI CAN STILL STAND!

O-OHH!

IS HE REALLY IMMORTAL..?

UP... AGAIN..

I... GOT...

AHH...

WHY AM I... STANDING...?

B... BUT... WHY..?

WHAT'S WRONG, KIM!?

FIGHT!
WHY...

I SAID FIGHT!

NGHH...

MN...

OHHHHH!

STOP!
THAT'S THE END OF THE ROUND!

H-HE'S A MONSTER...

YOUR CORNER'S OVER THERE!

MON-STER...

THIS WAY, YONG-BI

HANG IN THERE!

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, JOE!?

GET ME SOME VASELIN AND A WET TOWEL!

NEVER BEEN A BOXER WHO COULD STAND AFTER I MADE HIM DANCE...

T-THERE'S...

EVEN IF HE STILL HAS ONE OR TWO STRINGS LEFT, THEY CAN'T DO ANY MORE THAN JUST BARELY HOLD HIM UP.

EITHER WAY, HIS STRINGS ARE ALMOST ALL CUT.

THAT YABUKI'S FOOLISHLY PUSHING HIMSELF WAY BEYOND HIS LIMITS.

LIKE A LIFELESS DOLL STRUNG UP BY STRINGS,

AND YET..

HE SHOULD BE FINISHED...

HE KEEPS ON STANDING...

:

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CUT THOSE REMAINING STRINGS TO FULFILL YOUR KO PREDICTION.

IN THE NEXT ROUND,

M-MISS YOUKO.

DID YOU FORGET THE CASE WITH RIKIISHI TOORU?

WHY'RE YOU LETTING HIM FIGHT TO THIS EXTENT?

WHY WON'T YOU THROW IN THE TOWEL, MR. TANGE!?

RIKII-SHI...

ARE YOU JUST PLANNING TO LET YABUKI DIE...!?

YABUKI'S WALKING DOWN THAT VERY SAME PATH RIGHT NOW

RIKIISHI FORCED HIMSELF TO LOSE AN ABSURD AMOUNT OF WEIGHT, SEVERELY WEAKENING HIS BODY AND EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBING TO DEATH.

WE'LL HAVE TO FORFEIT.

I CAN ALREADY SEE THAT HE'S REACHED HIS LIMIT.

YOU... YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME THAT.

HA... I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY...

...

AND THAT NOSY WOMAN..

BY KILLING YOU,

'CAUSE THE MOMENT YOU DO, I'LL PART WAYS WITH THE BOXING WORLD,

SHUT UP.

YABUKI...

SO GET LOST!

AH-

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SOME WOMAN TO BUTT IN!

WHEN A MAN'S TRYING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE A MAN SHOULD,

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!?

W...

YOU GET LOST TOO, OLD MAN...

IF YOU CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH, GO BACK TO THE CHANGING ROOM AND SHUT YOUR EYES.

AGHHH!

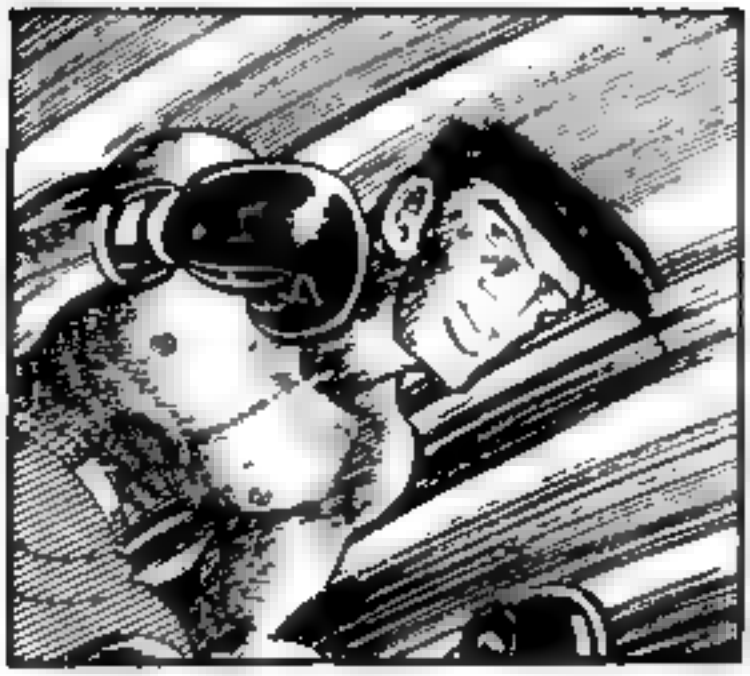
ROUND 6!

JOE...

CUT HIS REMAINING STRINGS!

RIKIISHI...

THE SAME PATH AS RIKIISHI, HUH...



HE STARVED...
THAT'S RIGHT...

HE STARVED TOO..

I HEARD AT THE RESTAURANT THAT KIM KILLED HIS DAD OUT OF HUNGER...

EVER SINCE...

I...

AND LET MYSELF FEEL INFERIOR...

I WAS TOO AWED BY HIS HELLISH EXPERIENCE...

TOO

.....

WIN AGAINST A MAN WHO'D BEEN THROUGH SUCH A THING... THAT'S WHAT I LET MYSELF THINK..

JUST HOW COULD A STUFFED FOOL WHO CAN BARELY CONTROL HIS WEIGHT,

BUT...
THERE'S AT LEAST ONE POINT THAT I CAN'T YIELD TO KIM...

RIKIISHI ALSO HAD TO GO THROUGH EXTREME STARVATION...!

A... AND THAT... IS...

NGHH..

RIKIISHI, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS DENIED EVEN THAT!
YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN SO HUNGRY AS TO ACCIDENTALLY KILL YOUR DAD, BUT AT LEAST YOU COULD FIND WATER TO DRINK...

FIGHT!

RIKISHI DIDN'T EAT AND DRINK BY HIS SHEER WILLPOWER ALONE...!

AND WHEREAS YOU "COULDN'T" EAT,

FOR A SHOT AT FIGHTING A TRUE MAN'S FIGHT!

AND IN THE END, HE TRADED HIS LIFE...

HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR OUR FRIENDSHIP!

STARVING TO THE VERGE OF DEATH AIN'T SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF!

SO IT'S NOTHING!

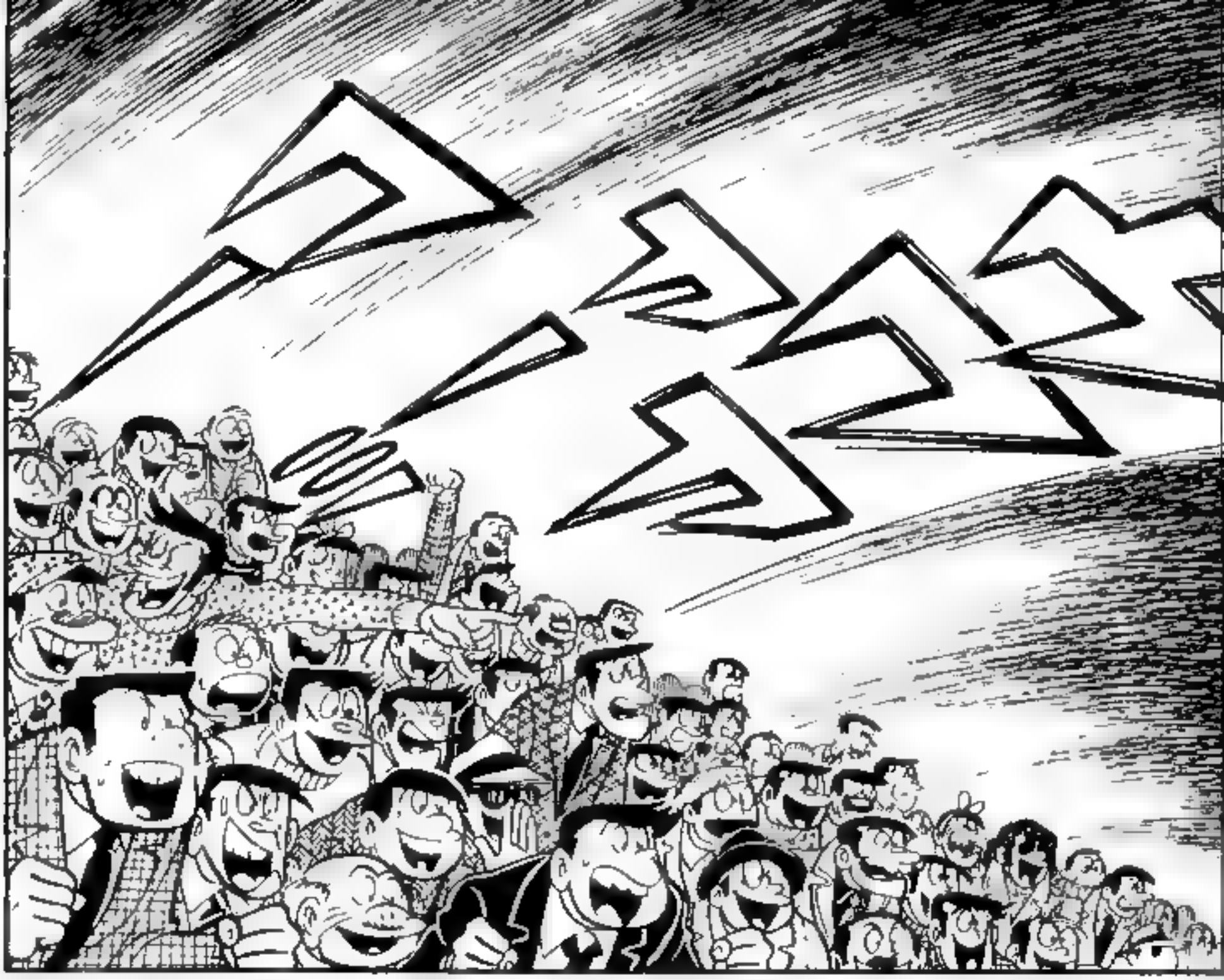
AND I WAS THE ONE WHO WITNESSED THAT MAN FIGHT THROUGH HIS SUFFERING UNTIL THE VERY MOMENT OF HIS DEATH!

FOR THE PRIDE OF A TRUE MAN!

FOR THE SAKE OF HIS DIGNITY!

UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS YOU FACED!

THERE WAS A MAN WHO WILLINGLY WALKED DOWN TO HELL HIMSELF!



AHH...
S-SENPAI...

...

JOE...

Y-YABUKI IS ON A PHENOMENAL ROLL!
HE LAUNCHES AN OFFENSIVE THAT SEEMS MIRACULOUS AFTER HOW MUCH DAMAGE HE'S TAKEN SO FAR!
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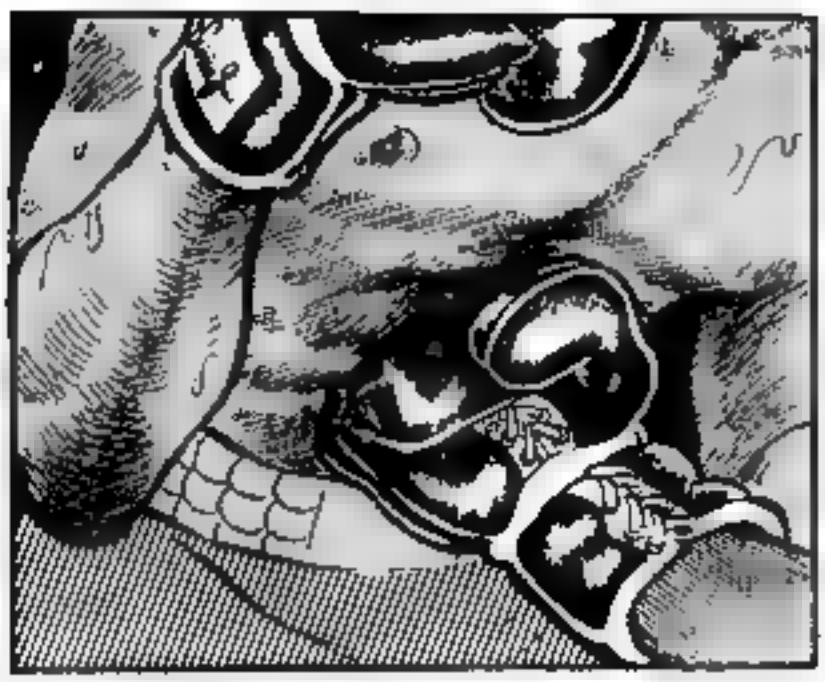
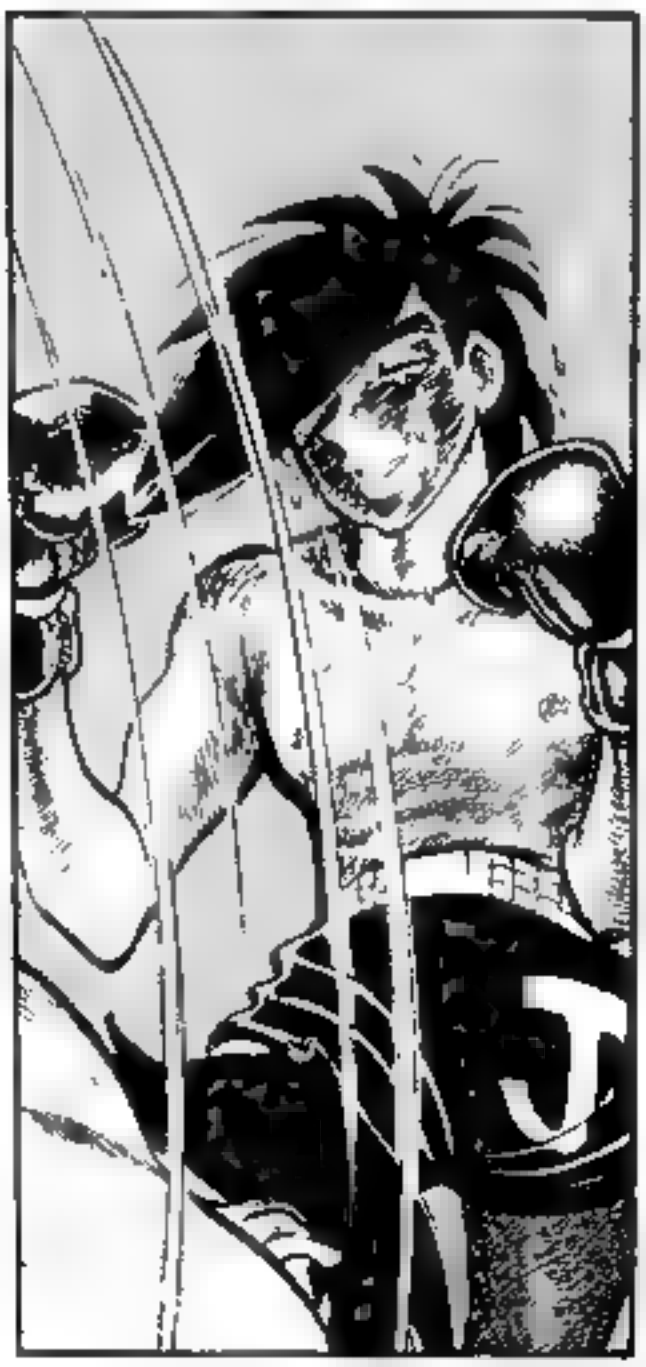
UP AGAINST YABUKI'S FIERCE ATTACKS, KIM CAN ONLY RETREAT!

HE'S LIKE A POSSESSED DEMON OUT THERE!



UGHH ....!

STOP!
S...



HE'S DOWN!

BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

YONG-BI!

KIM IS KNEELING ON THE RING!

K-KIM GOES DOWN!

YOU'RE INFERIOR TO RIKIISHI...

KIM YONG-BI...

PUT YOURSELF UP TO BE SOME GREAT HERO WHO RETURNED FROM HELL...

YOU...

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME TELL YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR CORNER!?

YOU'RE A LESSER MAN THAN RIKIISHI!

BUT KNOW THIS.

AND EVEN HOLD UP YOUR TRAUMA LIKE A BADGE TO BE PROUD OF, A PROOF OF YOUR STRENGTH...

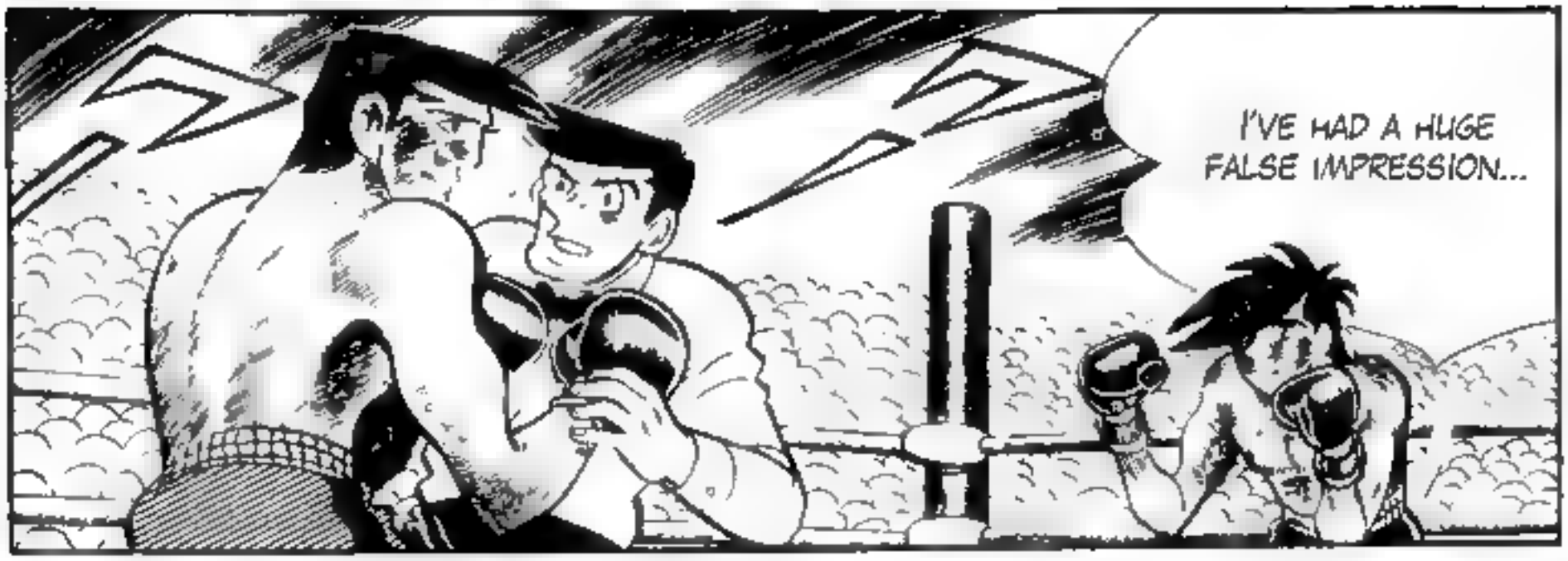
FOUR!

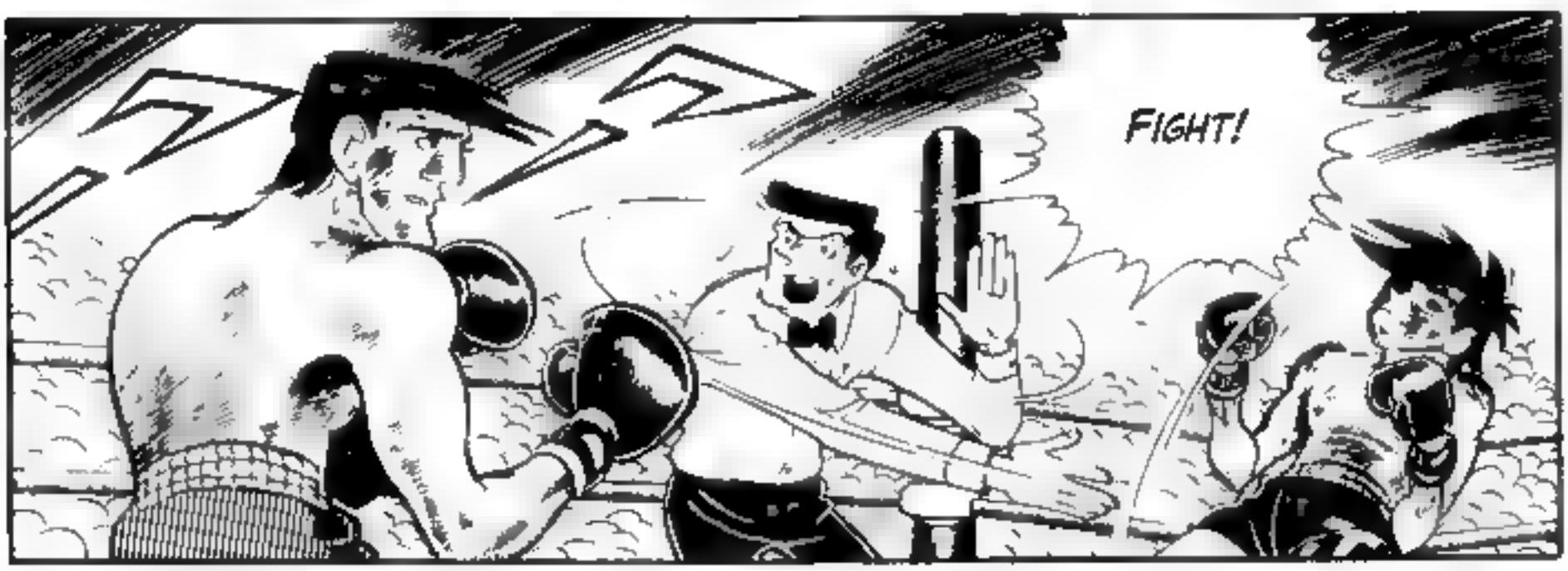
FIVE!

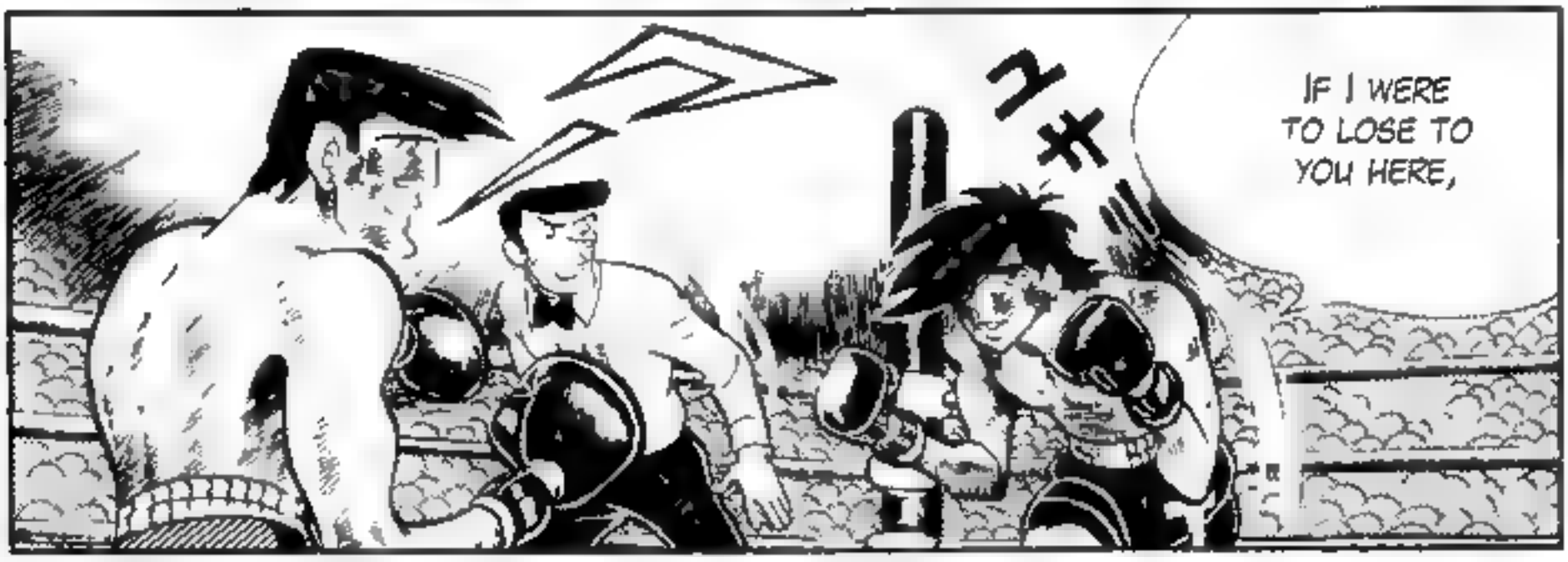
UP UNTIL NOW...

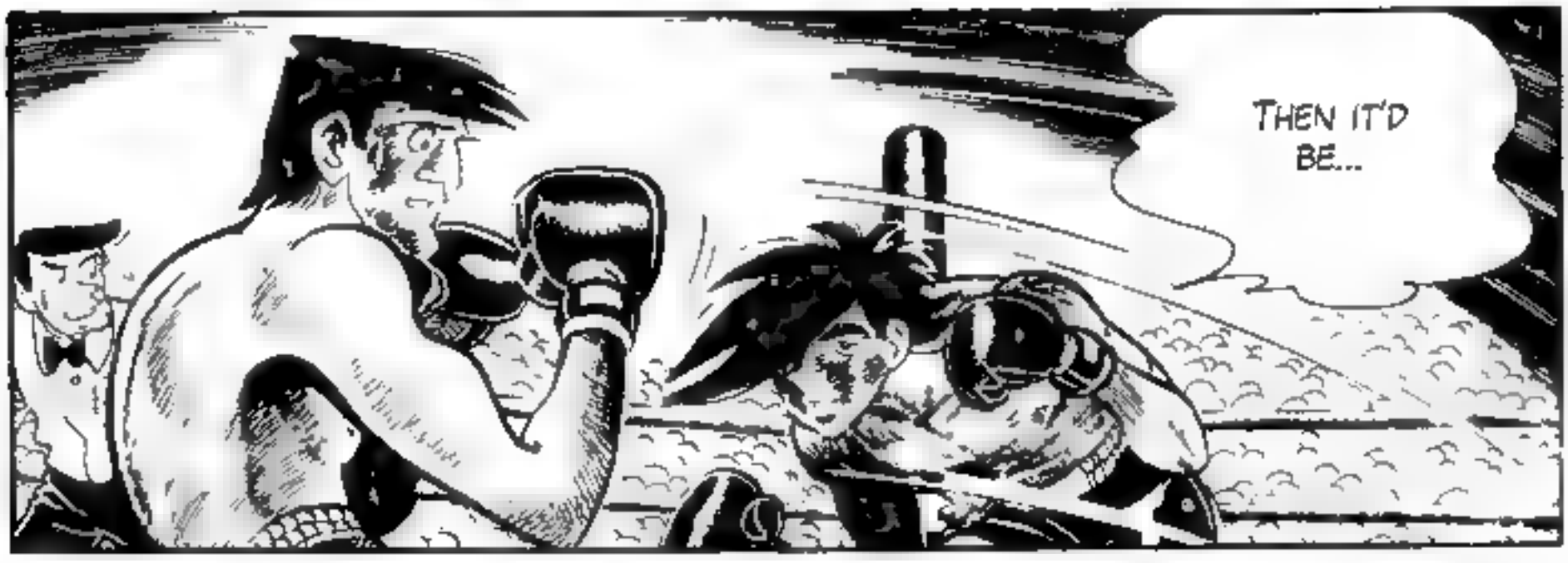
SEVEN!

SIX!


I'VE HAD A HUGE FALSE IMPRESSION...


FIGHT!


IF I WERE TO LOSE TO YOU HERE,


THEN IT'D BE...

INEXCUSABLY DISRESPECTFUL TO RIKIISHI!

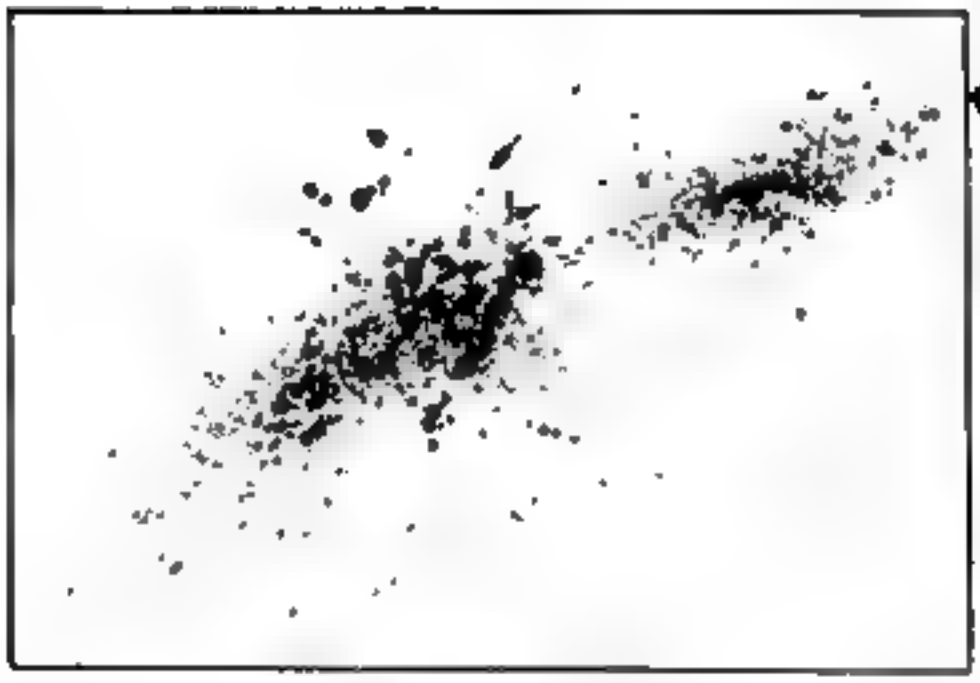
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WOKEN UP IN YABUKI, BUT IN TECHNIQUE, YOU'RE STILL SUPERIOR!

DON'T FALL BACK!

HIT HIM BACK AND YOU CAN STILL WIN!

SO HIT BACK!

WHY YOU..



HEH HEH...

A FEROCIOUS SLUG-FEST!
JUST LISTEN TO THE CROWD ROAR!
THE WHOLE AUDIENCE IS UP ON THEIR FEET!

O-OH NO!

A-AHHH...

WHAT'RE YOU YELLING ABOUT..?

AGHHHHH-

BLOOD IS DRIPPING DOWN HIS FACE!

AH, YABUKI APPEARS TO HAVE A CUT!

OH SHUT..

GAHHHHHHH!

YOUR MOUTH!

ACK!
AGHH!

D... DAMN IT...
WHENEVER HE SEES A LOT OF BLOOD,
HIS TRAUMA RESURFACES..

I-IT'S A 6TH ROUND KO-WIN FOR YABUKI!

YABUKI JOE IS NOW THE NEW CHAMPION OF THE PACIFIC LEAGUE'S BANTAMWEIGHT DIVISION!

HE'S DONE IT!

Y-YOU DID IT!

YOU REALLY DID IT!

A TRUE BRAWLER!

THE BEAST THAT DEFIES THE BOUNDARIES OF LOGIC!

HE REALLY IS THE MAN WHO MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE!

INCREDIBLE!

THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF KIM'S PREDICTION HAPPENED, WITH YABUKI DELIVERING AN UNEXPECTED KO-WIN IN THE 6TH ROUND!

YOUKO?

HUH? WHERE'S YOUKO?

YABUKI! YOU HAVE TO COME UP FOR THE CEREMONY AND RECEIVE YOUR BELT!

GOOD JOB OUT THERE!

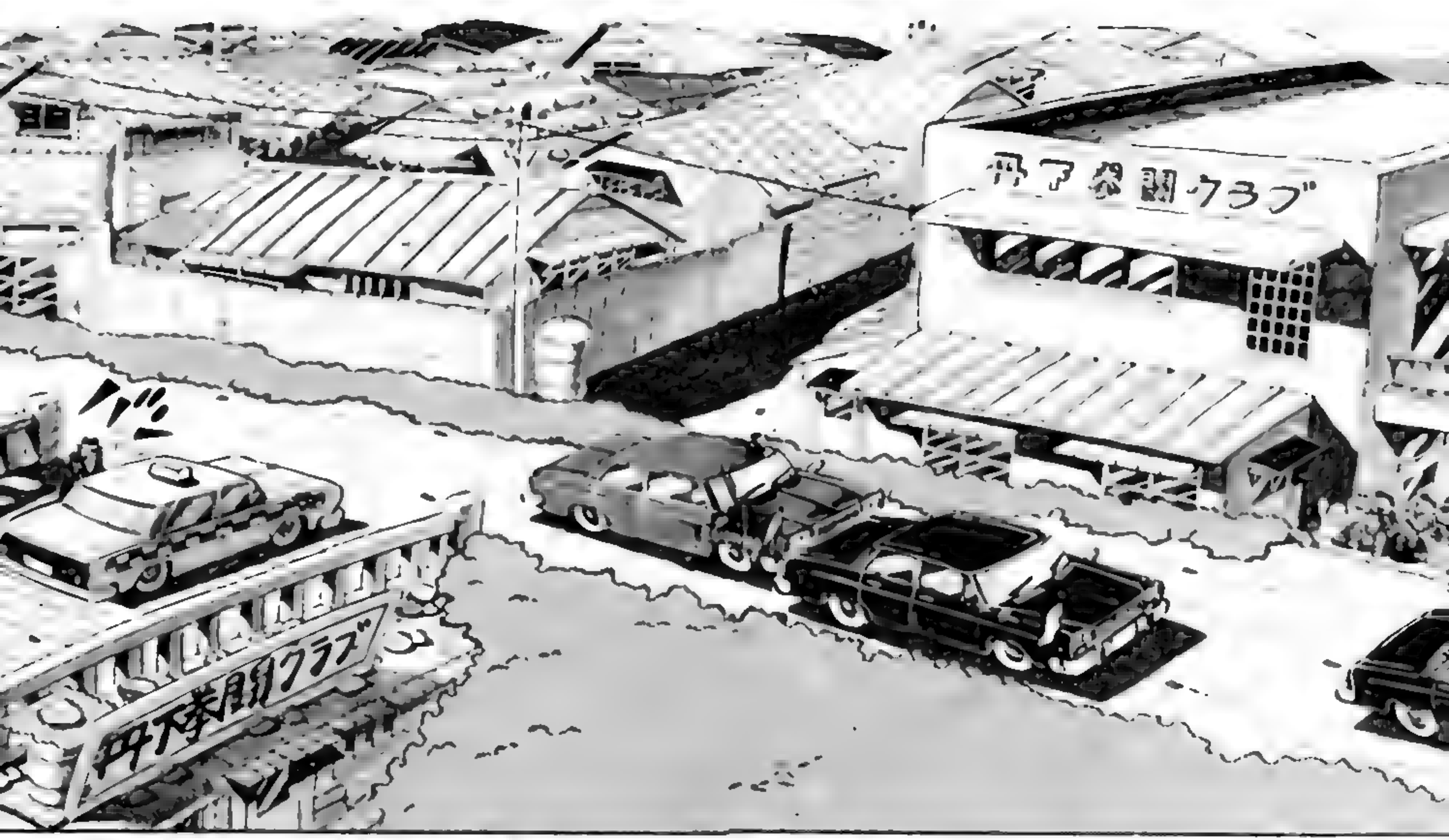
YOU DID IT, JOE!

SENPAI...

WHERE'S YOUKO..

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE AND CERTIFY YABUKI JOE AS THE NEW BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE ORIENTAL AND PACIFIC LEAGUE...

HERE.
RIKIISHI... THIS IS A BELT THAT YOU'VE GIVEN ME.


丹下将棋クラブ
丹下将棋クラブ

HOW'S THE CHAMP DOING?
WE'RE HERE BACK!

将棋

将棋

HMPH... HE'S MISSING.

WHERE'S BROTHER JOE?

IS HE STILL NOT BACK?

MISSING?

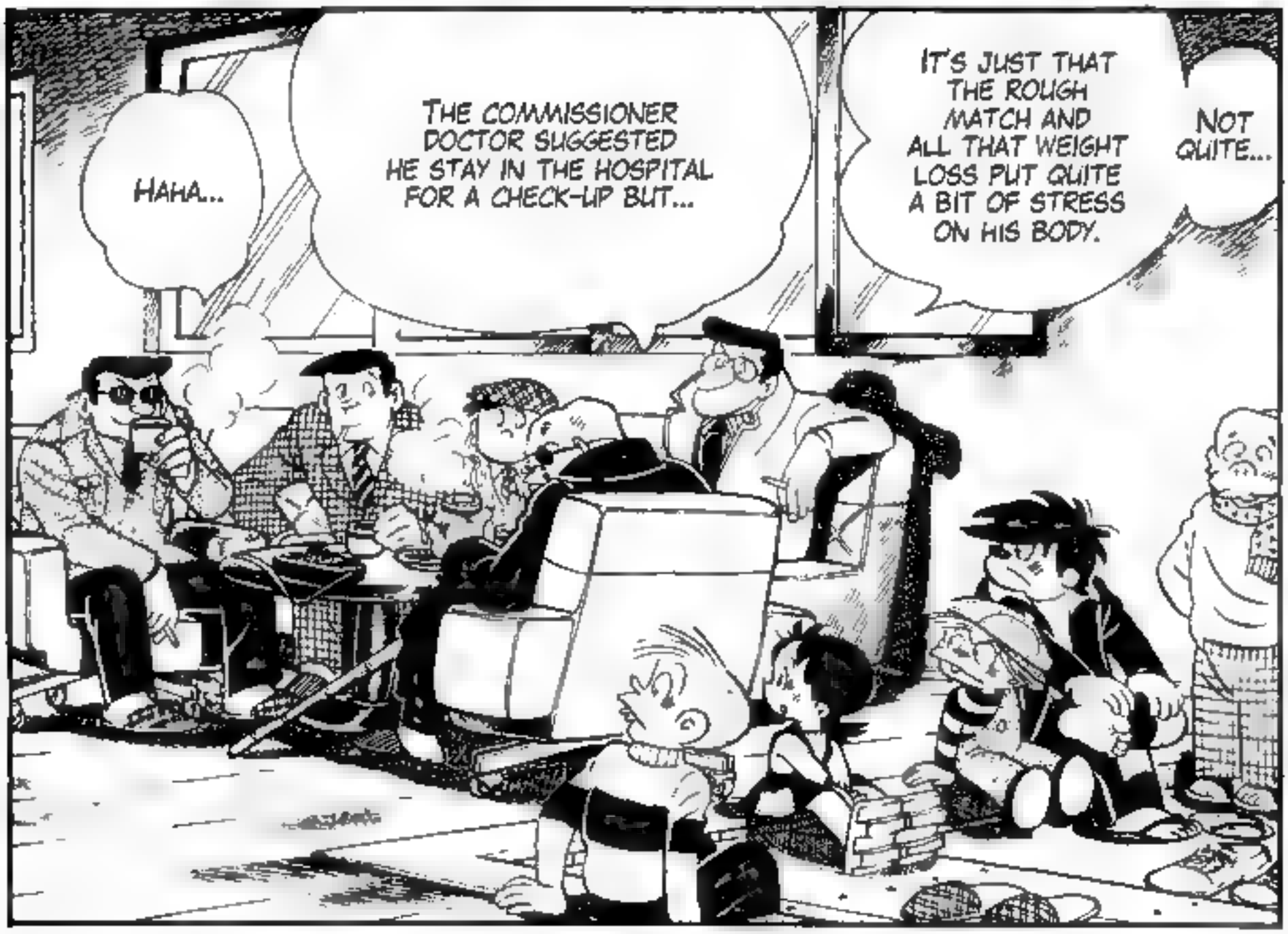
YOU DON'T KNOW? I THOUGHT YOU WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WITH HIM.

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

OH WELCOME BACK!

HEY THERE, PRESIDENT TANGE!

SO... WHERE'S YABUKI?
SURE THING.
COULD YOU PLEASE POUR ME A CUP OF TEA TOO?
IS HE FEELING UNWELL?
OH?
DID HE RUN AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AGAIN?
THAT DUMBASS' HATRED FOR DOCTORS KNOWS NO BOUNDS...
UGH.


HAHA...
THE COMMISSIONER DOCTOR SUGGESTED HE STAY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A CHECK-UP BUT...
IT'S JUST THAT THE ROUGH MATCH AND ALL THAT WEIGHT LOSS PUT QUITE A BIT OF STRESS ON HIS BODY.
NOT QUITE...

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT A GUY WHO FIGHTS WITH BLOOD DRIPPING DOWN ALL OVER HIS FACE WOULD BE SCARED OF A DOCTOR.
HAHAHA! EXACTLY!
DON'T WORRY, IF HE HATES THE HOSPITAL ENOUGH TO RUN AWAY FROM IT, THEN THAT'S PROOF THAT HE'S HEALTHY ENOUGH!
AHAHAHA!
HEH HEH HEH...
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HE MUST BE AFRAID OF NEEDLES TOO!
HAHA...
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

IT'S ALREADY PAST 5!

AND HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNIN' TO STAND THERE!?

WHAT, YOU THINK HE'S SOME LOST CHILD!? JUST LEAVE HIM BE!

I-IS IT FINE FOR US TO NOT GO LOOKING FOR HIM?

UMM...

R-RIGHT...

LATER, LATER!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING HERE ALL DAY TO SEE IT.

HEY! WHEN ARE YA GONNA SHOW US THAT FANCY TITLE-BELT?

YAA-AWWN...

CAN I ASK YOU REPORTERS TO LEAVE JOE ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE?

SO GO AWAY!

IT'S TRAINING TIME FOR MY BOYS,

BUT WE WERE WAITING ALL DAY LONG!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT AIN'T LIKE WE'LL BREAK IT JUST BY GETTING A GLIMPSE...

SO IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'RE ANY HOT SCOOPS ON HIM TO REPORT.

HIS MATCH JUST ENDED,

WELL... I GUESS THAT'S TRUE...

WHETHER OR NOT THAT WEIGHT LOSS IS GOING TO BE HIS ACHILLES' HEEL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

WE WERE JUST A LITTLE WORRIED,

BUT THE FACT THAT HE PULLED THROUGH THE WEIGHT LOSS MEANS THAT HE STILL HAD SOME UNNECESSARY WATER AND FAT TO SPARE.

THIS MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE COLD,

HA.

THERE AIN'T NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY!

BUT NOW, HE'S THE PERFECT BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHER!

BOTH HIS POWER AND SPEED HAVE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS!

AND WITH HIS NEW BODY NOW AS TALL AS A FEATHERWEIGHT OR EVEN A LIGHTWEIGHT BOXER,

HAS NOW BEEN CONDENSED INTO ONE COMPACT FORM!

IN OTHER WORDS, HIS BODY, FIT FOR TWO OR THREE WEIGHT CLASSES ABOVE,

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MANY OF THE MOST AGILE AND STRONGEST BOXERS IN HISTORY HAVE ALL GONE THROUGH SOME DRASTIC WEIGHT LOSS.

HMM, THAT MAKES SENSE...

QUICKLY IF YOU CAN.

...WELL, IF YOU GOT THAT, THEN CAN YOU PLEASE LEAVE ALREADY?

BUT JUST ONE MORE QUESTION...

S-SURE, WE'LL GO, WE'LL GO.

THAT'S ONE QUESTION WE GOTTA FIND OUT THE ANSWER TO OR WE MIGHT GET THE PINK SLIP!

YES, YES!

WITH THE PACIFIC TITLE UNDER HIS BELT, YABUKI'S NEXT GOAL IS OBVIOUSLY THE WORLD BUT... HAS THERE BEEN ANY PROGRESS WITH ARRANGING A MATCH WITH MENDOZA?

SO BEAT IT ALREADY!

HIS WOUNDS HAVEN'T EVEN HEALED YET FROM THE PACIFIC TITLE MATCH!

OH FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!

IT'S NO GOOD... HE'S IN A BAD MOOD TODAY.

LET'S COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

CONGRA-TULATIONS!

SO JOE'S FINALLY THE PACIFIC CHAMP, EH?

HI.

NISHI!

HEH HEH.

I FEEL REALLY BAD ABOUT MISSING THE MATCH DUE TO WORK...

CONGRATS TO YOU BOTH.

STOP DROOLING!

YOU PERMED YOUR HAIR, RIGHT? YOU LOOK REALLY PRETTY...

IS THAT... NORIKO WITH YOU?

YOU TWO SURE HAVE BECOME UPSTANDING ADULTS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...

OH MY...

NO NEED TO BE RESERVED!

AHAHAHA. WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?

YOU'RE GETTING MORE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY, NORIKO.

OH DON'T FLATTER ME LIKE THAT.

WE'LL COME OVER ANOTHER TIME WHEN JOE'S HERE.

ACTUALLY... WE'VE STILL GOT SOME WORK LEFT TO DO.

BYE, MR. TANGE.

SEE YA LATER THEN. SEND JOE OUR BEST REGARDS.

SURE.

COULD YA GIVE IT TO JOE?

THIS IS... A GIFT FROM NORIKO AND I.

HEE HEE, YOU TWO MAKE A NICE PAIR!

WELL... I SUPPOSE A QUICK DRIVE AROUND THE BLOCK WOULDN'T HURT.

YOU SURE ARE MAKING THE BIG BUCKS NOW!

AHH! DID YOU GET ANOTHER NEW CAR?

GIVE US A RIDE, MAMMOTH!

WOOHOO!

ブォォォ

WHOA!

YEAHHH!

AWESOME!

HAHAHA...

EASY THERE, OLD MAN. SPARE ME YOUR LECTURE.

W-W-WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU B-

. . . .

IF YOU'RE STILL GONNA COMPLAIN, I'LL JUST EXCUSE MYSELF AND TAKE ANOTHER WALK OUTSIDE.

J- JOE...

IT'S A GIFT FROM NISHI AND NORIKO ON YOUR WIN.

HERE.

FINE.

LET'S GO INSIDE.

IT'S GETTING COLD OUT.

BUT YOU ONLY HAD BOXING IN YOUR HEAD FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

YOU PROBABLY REALIZED IT BUT...

NORIKO HAD QUITE A THING FOR YOU AT FIRST.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW NISHI'S A GOOD GUY.

AND IN HER LONELINESS, SHE REALIZED THAT NISHI WAS ALWAYS BY HER SIDE...

BEFORE YOU SAY ANY MORE, LET ME JUST TELL YOU THAT I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

NORIKO'S PARENTS TRUST HIM COMPLETELY WITH THE BUSINESS AS WELL AND-

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE JOSÉ MENDOZA IN THE WORLD!

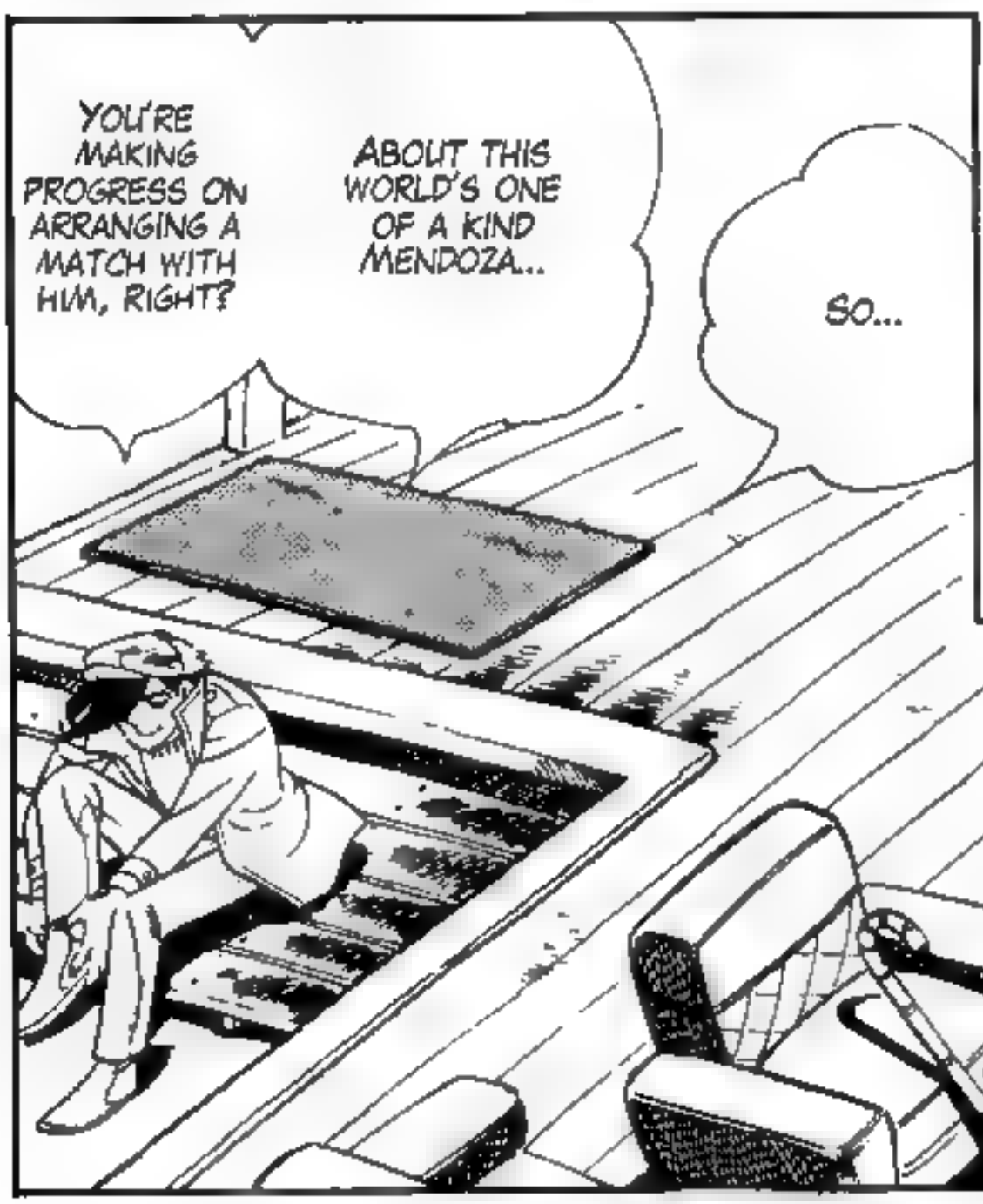
IN ANY CASE,

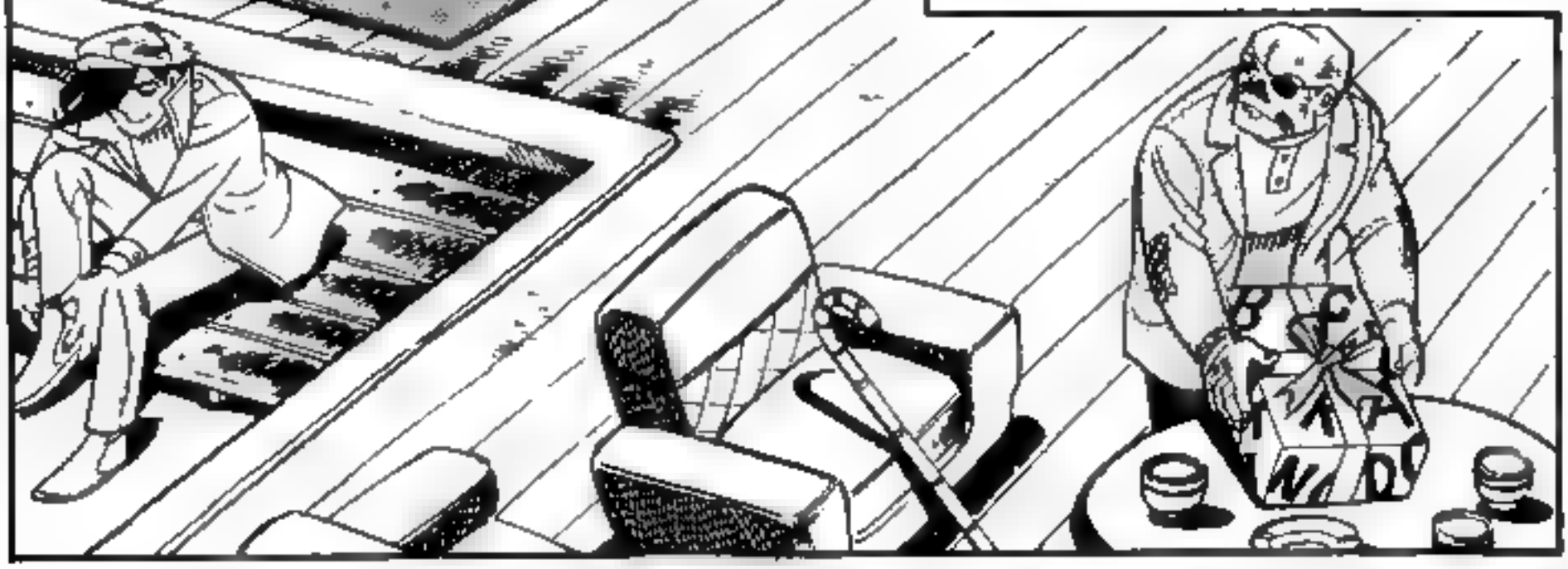
OR MEN, IF SPEAKING FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE.

THIS WORLD'S FULL OF WOMEN-

YO.
GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK!
AH, YOU'RE BACK!

JUST AS IT WAS WITH RIKIISHI OR CARLOS RIVERA...
.....


YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS ON ARRANGING A MATCH WITH HIM, RIGHT?
ABOUT THIS WORLD'S ONE OF A KIND MENDOZA...
SO...



WHAT'RE YOU RUSHING FOR, JOE?
WE'VE GOTTA QUICKLY-
HE AIN'T GONNA COME TO US IF WE STAY QUIET!

WELL, OLD MAN...?

SO DON'T GET HASTY!

EVEN IF YOU CALMLY TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME AND BUILD UP YOUR STRENGTH, YOU WON'T BE LATE TO TAKE THE WORLD-TITLE.

LOOK, YOU'RE FREE TO TAKE THINGS CALMLY HOWEVER YOU WANT,

DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE THE WORLD!

YOU JUST BARELY CLIMBED UP TO THE TOP OF THE PACIFIC AND HAVEN'T EVEN SOLIDIFIED YOUR POSITION, AND YET YOU'RE ALREADY CLAMORING FOR THE WORLD?

I'LL GO TALK TO THE NETWORK EXECS ABOUT YOUR REQUEST FIRST THING TOMORROW IF I HAVE TO.

FINE...

ドサッ

IF THERE'S ONE THING IN THIS WORLD THAT I CAN'T STAND, IT'S TO SHUFFLE MY FEET ABOUT WHILE KNOWING THERE'S SOMEONE ABOVE ME!

AND THAT'S BECAUSE...

BUT I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WANT TO FIGHT HIM RIGHT NOW IF I COULD!

I'M COUNTIN' ON YA, OLD MAN.

ゴホン

HEH.

R-RIGHT...

WHAT'RE YOU STARING FOR? KEEP ON TRAINING.

I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO LOOK OVER YOU GUYS FOR SOME TIME NOW.

OH THAT'S RIGHT.

LET ME JUST GET CH...

T-THANK YOU SO MUCH!

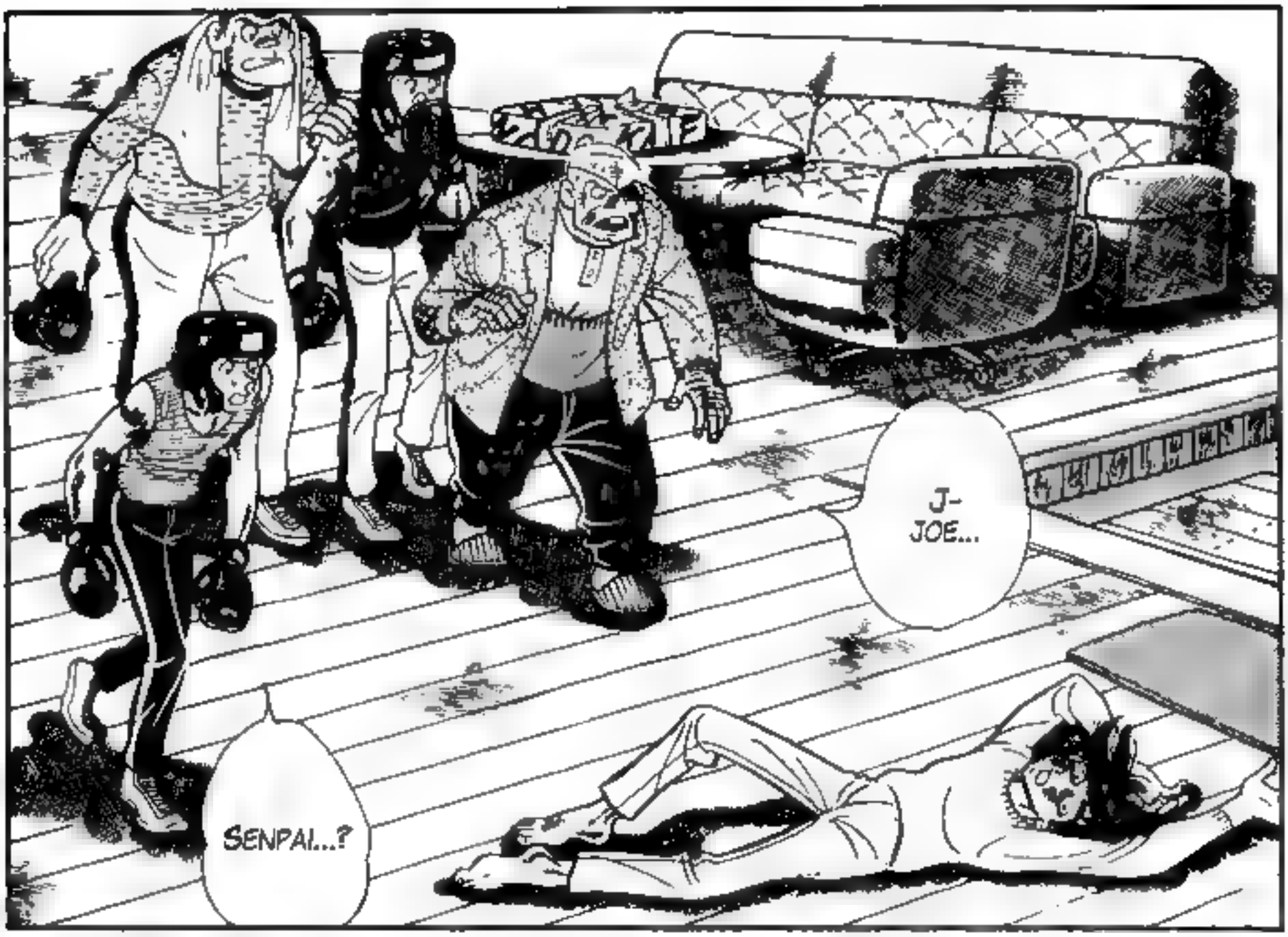
R-REALLY!?

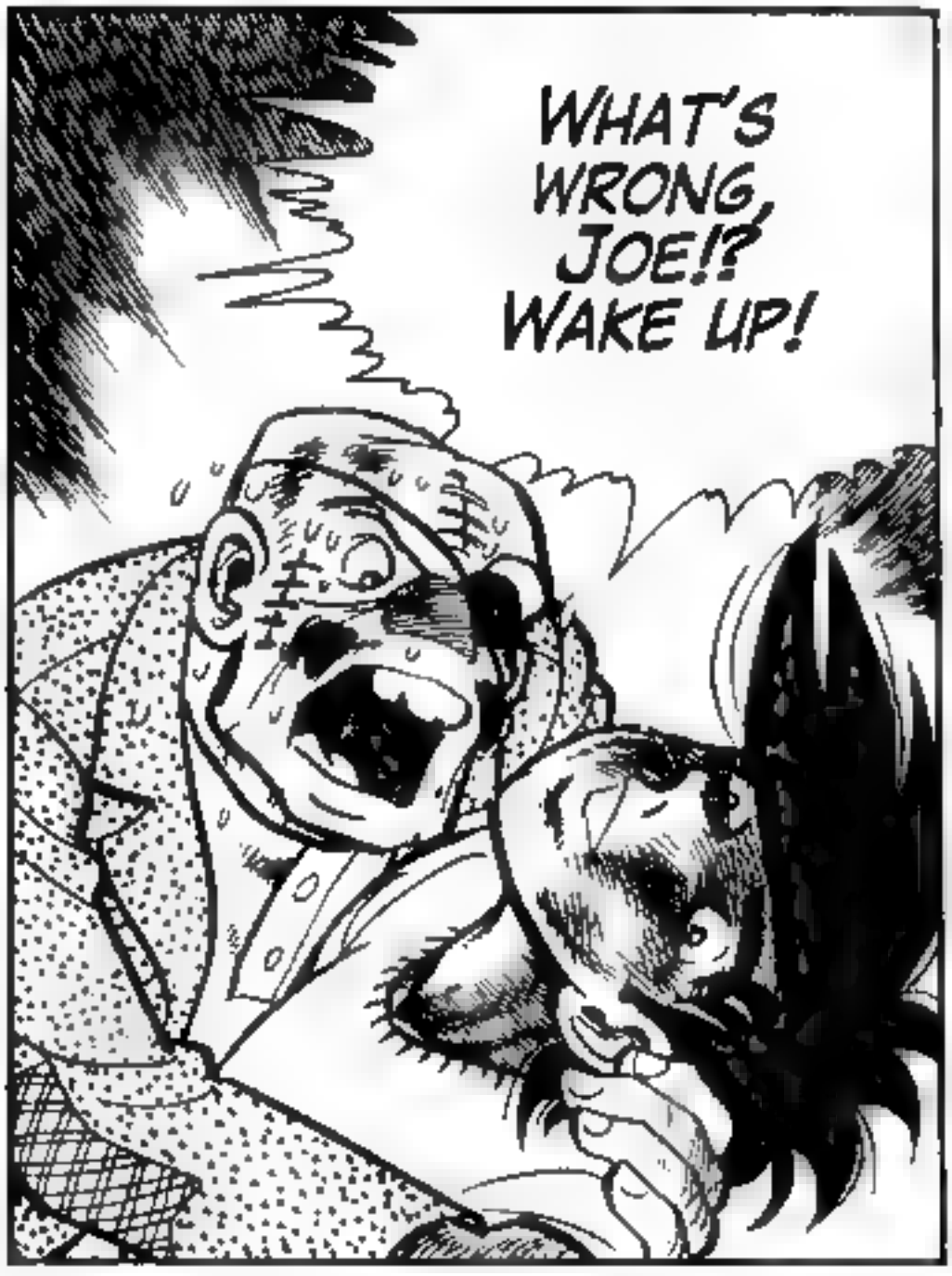
WHY DON'T I HELP YOU OUT WITH TRAINING TODAY?

S-
SENPAI?

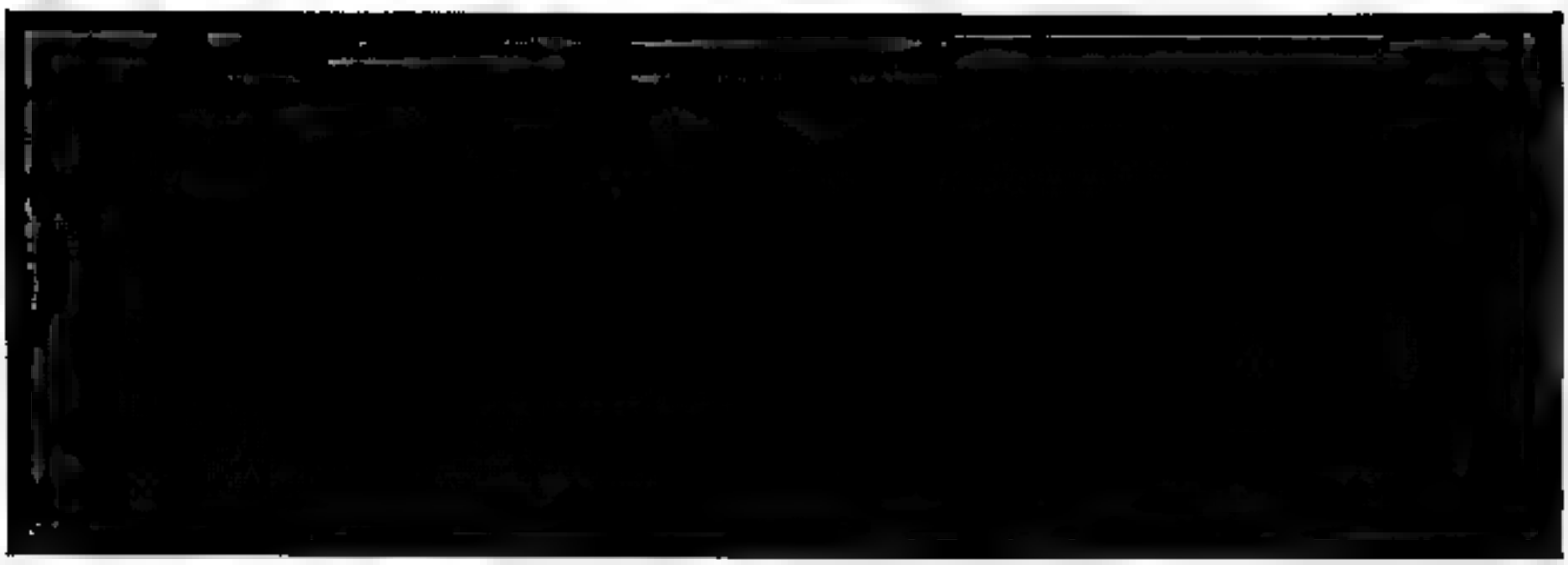
ズ

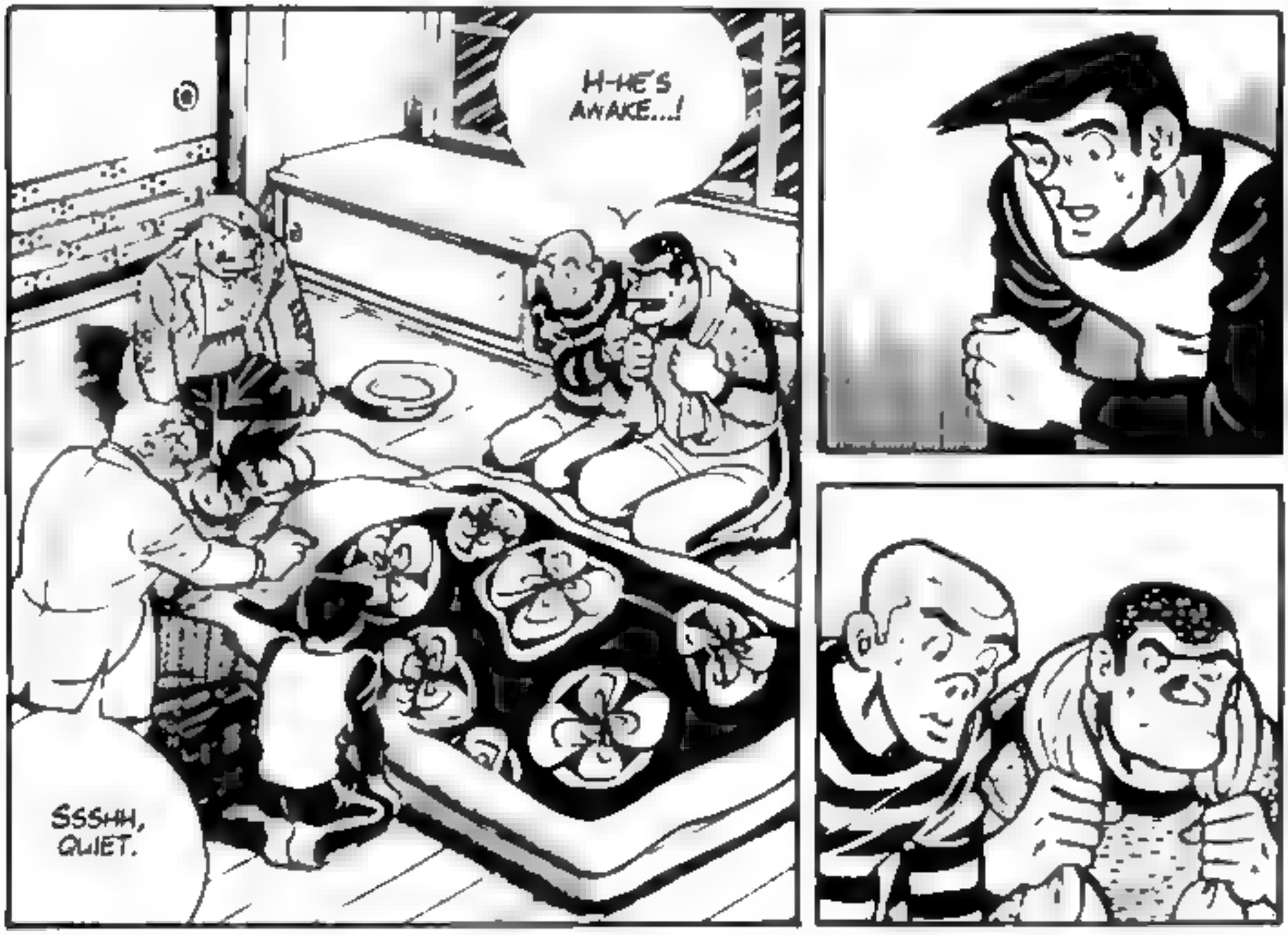
JOE!


SENPAI...?
J-
JOE...


WHAT'S WRONG, JOE!? WAKE UP!

JOE!




H-HE'S AWAKE...!
SSSHH, QUIET.

WHA...

WELL?
JOE... HOW'RE YA FEELING?

WHY AM I LYING HERE IN BED?
STAY PUT AND LIE DOWN!

OH...

YOU SAID YOU'D BE OUR SPARRING PARTNER TODAY BUT THEN PASSED OUT AS YOU WERE TRYING TO GET CHANGED.

HM...

IS IT BECAUSE OF ALL THE WEIGHT HE'S LOST RECENTLY?

WHAT IS IT, DOC...?

I SEE...

I RECOMMEND HE GET SOME GOOD REST AND AVOID STRENUOUS EXERCISE FOR THE TIME BEING.

ALL I CAN SAY FOR SURE IS THAT HE'S FATIGUED.

IN ANY CASE, I RECOMMEND TAKING HIM TO A HOSPITAL AND GETTING A THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

I JUST BLACKED OUT 'CAUSE I WAS HUNGRY, THAT'S ALL.

ALL THIS FUSS OVER NOTHIN'. LOOK, I'M FINE.

IT'S JUST A SIMPLE NUTRIENT INJECTION.

DON'T WORRY

W-WHAT'S THAT?

カナナ

カナナ

AGHH-

SENPAI ...

. . . .

. . . .

ARE YA KIDDIN' MME?

W- WHERE'RE YOU GOING, JOE!?

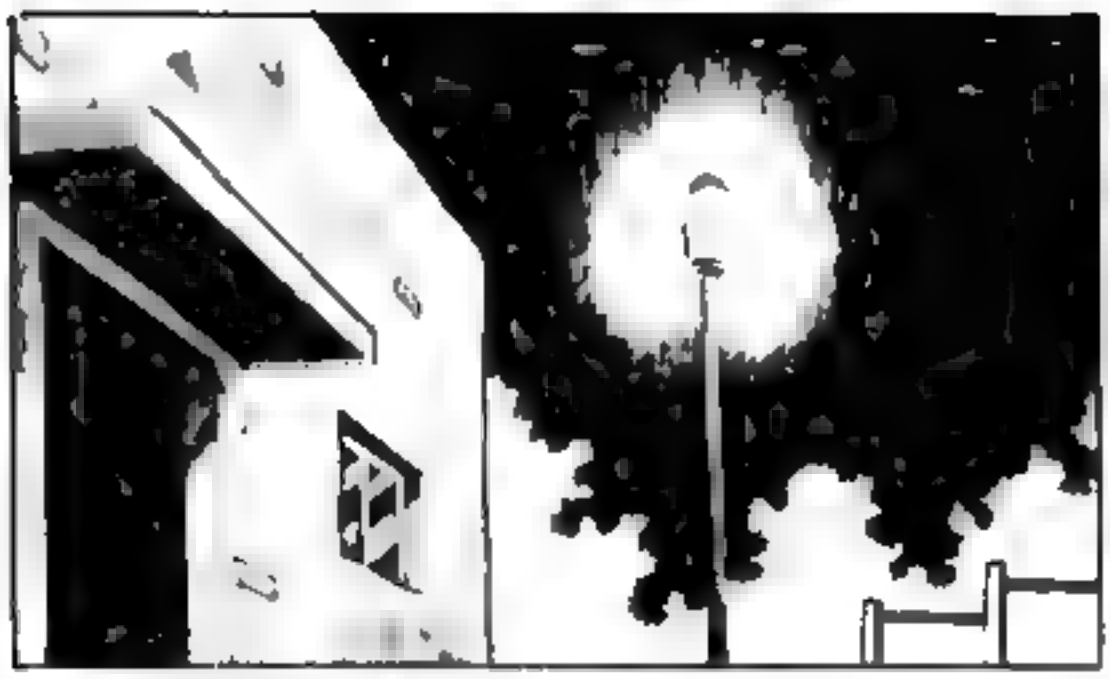
I AIN'T COMING BACK IF YOU KEEP THIS QUACK OF A DOCTOR HERE.

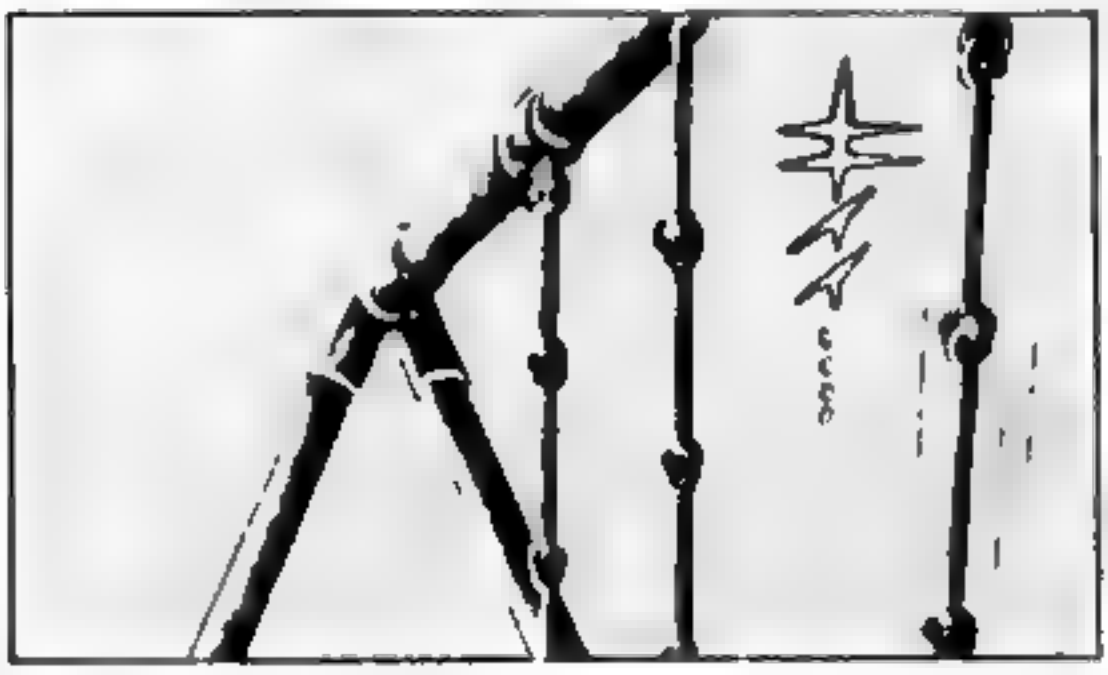
WHY YOU...!

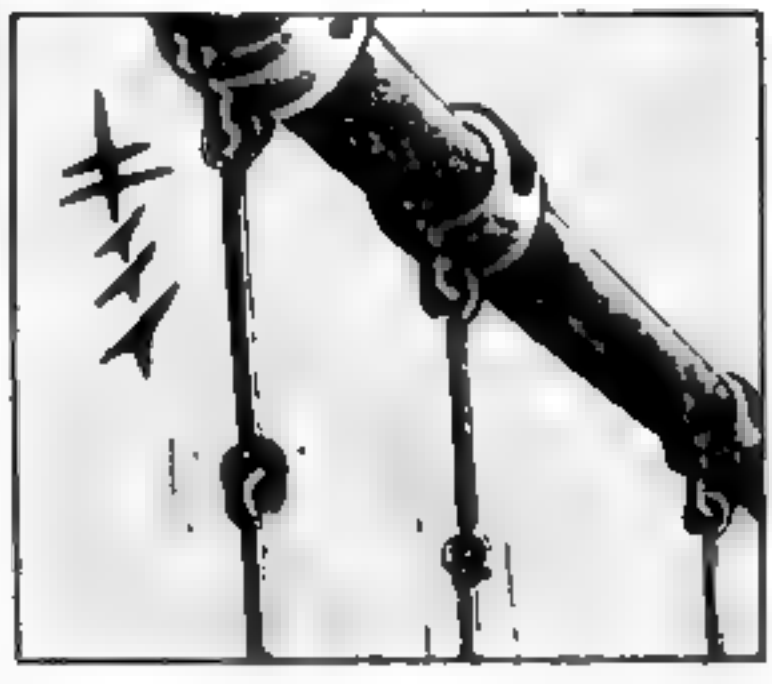
YOU THINK I'M A QUACK!?

J-JOE! COME BACK!

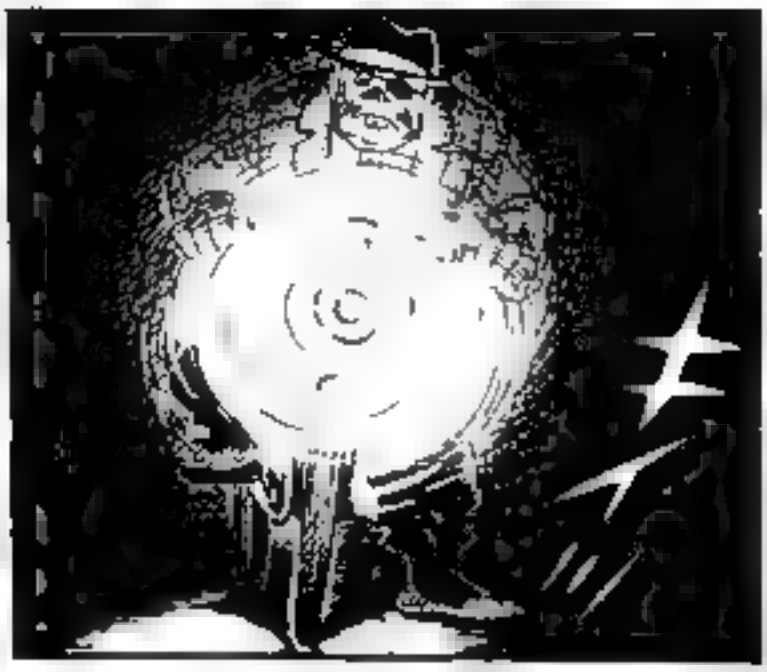
SEE YA.







LOITERING IN THE PARK AS USUAL, I SEE...



I WENT OVER TO YOUKO'S HOUSE.

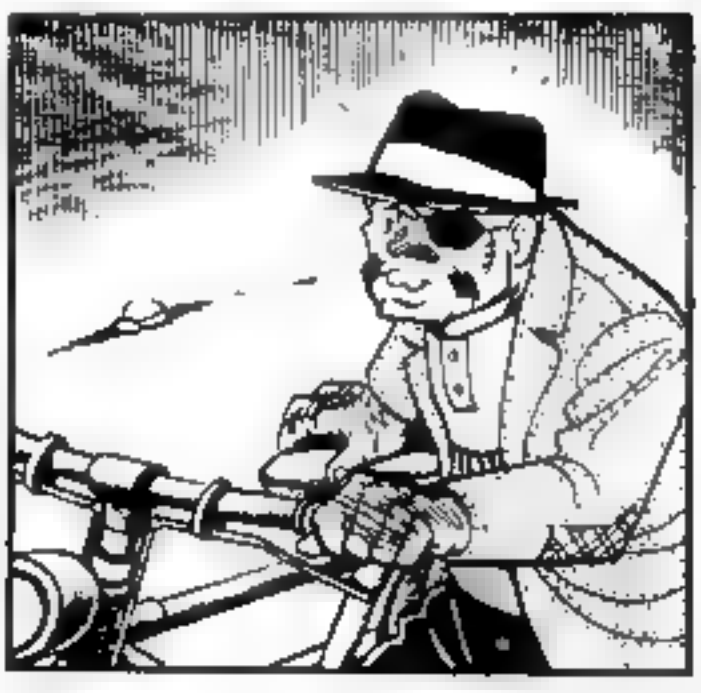
TODAY,

I'VE GOT NO IDEAS HOW TO-

YOU REALLY ARE ONE BIG PAIN IN THE ASS...

SHE SAID SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO PLACE SOME FLOWERS BY RIKIISHI'S GRAVE AT GOKOKU TEMPLE SO I WENT ALONG WITH HER.

YOUKO?



IT'S RATHER SMALL, BUT THERE WAS A NICELY POLISHED TOMBSTONE FOR HIM THERE.

IT WAS THANKS TO HER BUTTING IN AS USUAL DURING THE MATCH THAT I WAS REMINDED OF RIKIISHI.

WELL I'LL BE DAMNED... NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GO OVER AND VISIT YOUKO YOURSELF.

WELL...

I'M SURE SHE WAS HAPPY TO SEE YOU WIN THE PACIFIC TITLE.

IN ANY CASE, THAT WOMAN CARES A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU.

HMPH.

AND I DID FEEL A LITTLE BAD ABOUT DUMPING WATER ON HER IN FRONT OF THE CROWD...

THAT'S ONE CAREFREE WOMAN, I TELL YA.

SAID SOMETHIN' ABOUT JAPAN STILL BEING TOO COLD SO SHE'D BE FLYIN' OVER TO HAWAII WITH HER GRANDPA.

AS SOON AS SHE LEFT THE FLOWERS BY THE GRAVE, SHE SAID SHE HAD A FLIGHT TO CATCH FOR HER VACATION.

HA, SHE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THAT

IS THAT QUACK DOCTOR STILL WAITING FOR ME?

SO,

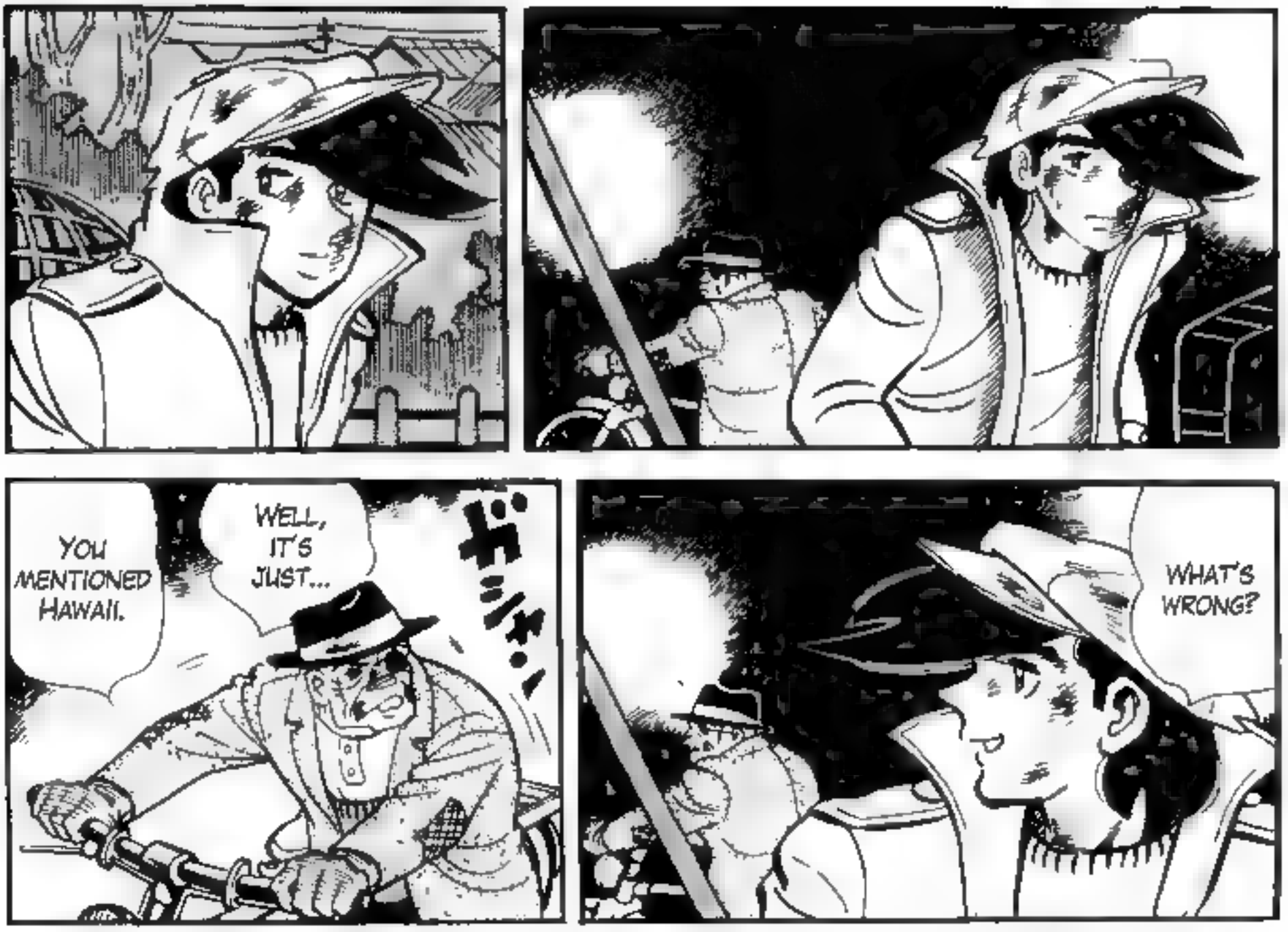
HMM..

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE WE CATCH A COLD, OLD MAN.

THEN I CAN GO BACK IN PEACE.

HE GOT ANGRY AND LEFT!

AS IF!


YOU MENTIONED HAWAII.
WELL, IT'S JUST...
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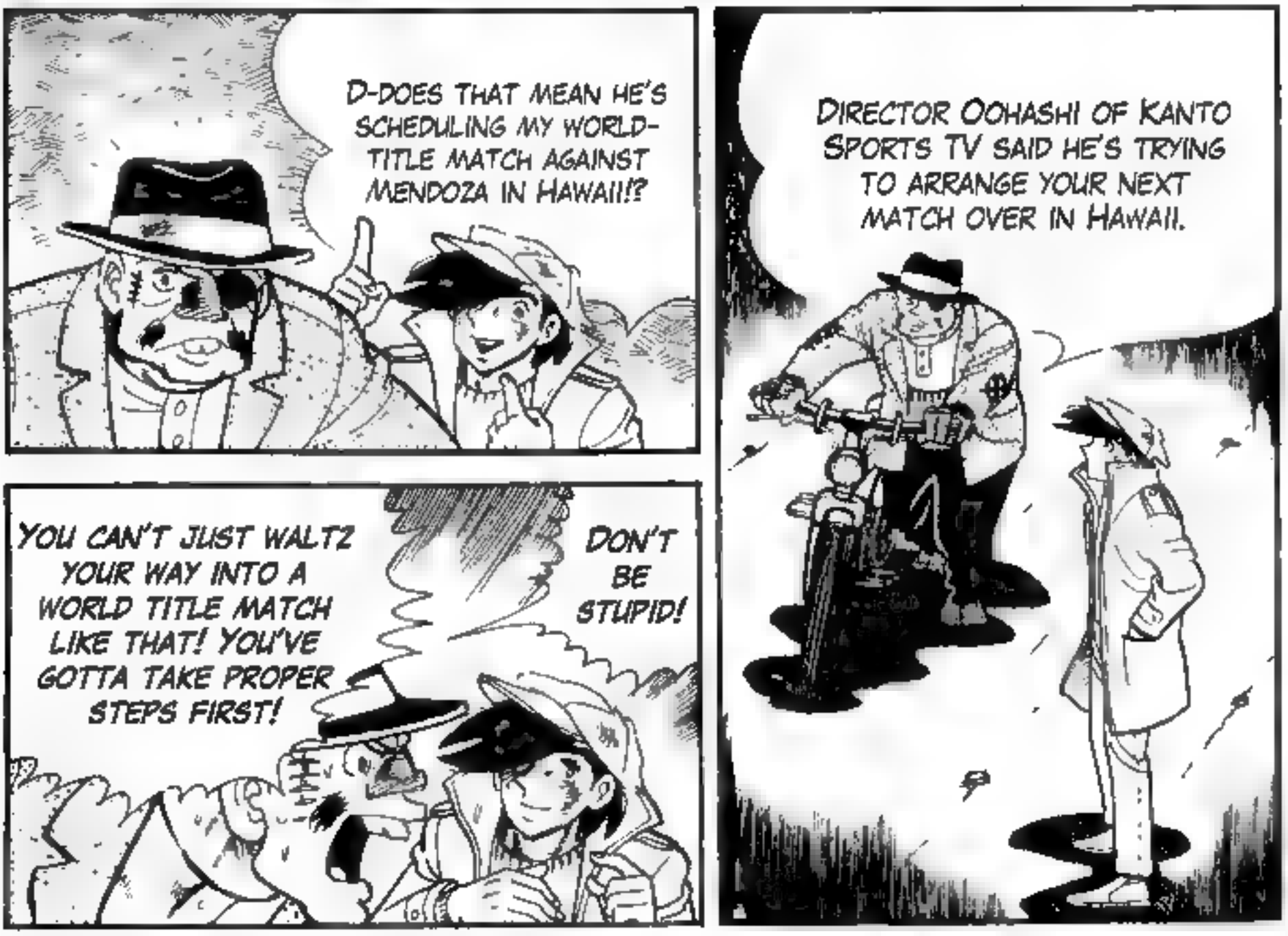
WHAT'S WRONG?


D-DOES THAT MEAN HE'S SCHEDULING MY WORLD-TITLE MATCH AGAINST MENDOZA IN HAWAII!?
DIRECTOR OOHASHI OF KANTO SPORTS TV SAID HE'S TRYING TO ARRANGE YOUR NEXT MATCH OVER IN HAWAII.
YOU CAN'T JUST WALTZ YOUR WAY INTO A WORLD TITLE MATCH LIKE THAT! YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE PROPER STEPS FIRST!
DON'T BE STUPID!

YOU MIGHT RUN INTO MENDOZA OVER IN HAWAII...

THAT BEING SAID,

THE WORLD CHAMP'S ALSO HAVING A MATCH THERE.

WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN?

IS FOR YOU TO GO SEE MENDOZA'S MATCH AND STUDY UP ON HIM.

I THINK WHAT OOHASHI INTENDS BY SCHEDULING YOUR NEXT MATCH IN HAWAII,

HI THERE.

IT'S JOE AND THE OLD MAN.

THE NEXT TIME I COME OVER, EH?

HEY, JOE! SHOW ME THAT SHINY NEW TITLE-BELT OF YOURS,

HEY! WHY DON'CHA TREAT ME TO A DRINK NOW THAT YOU'RE THE PACIFIC CHAMP! HAHA!

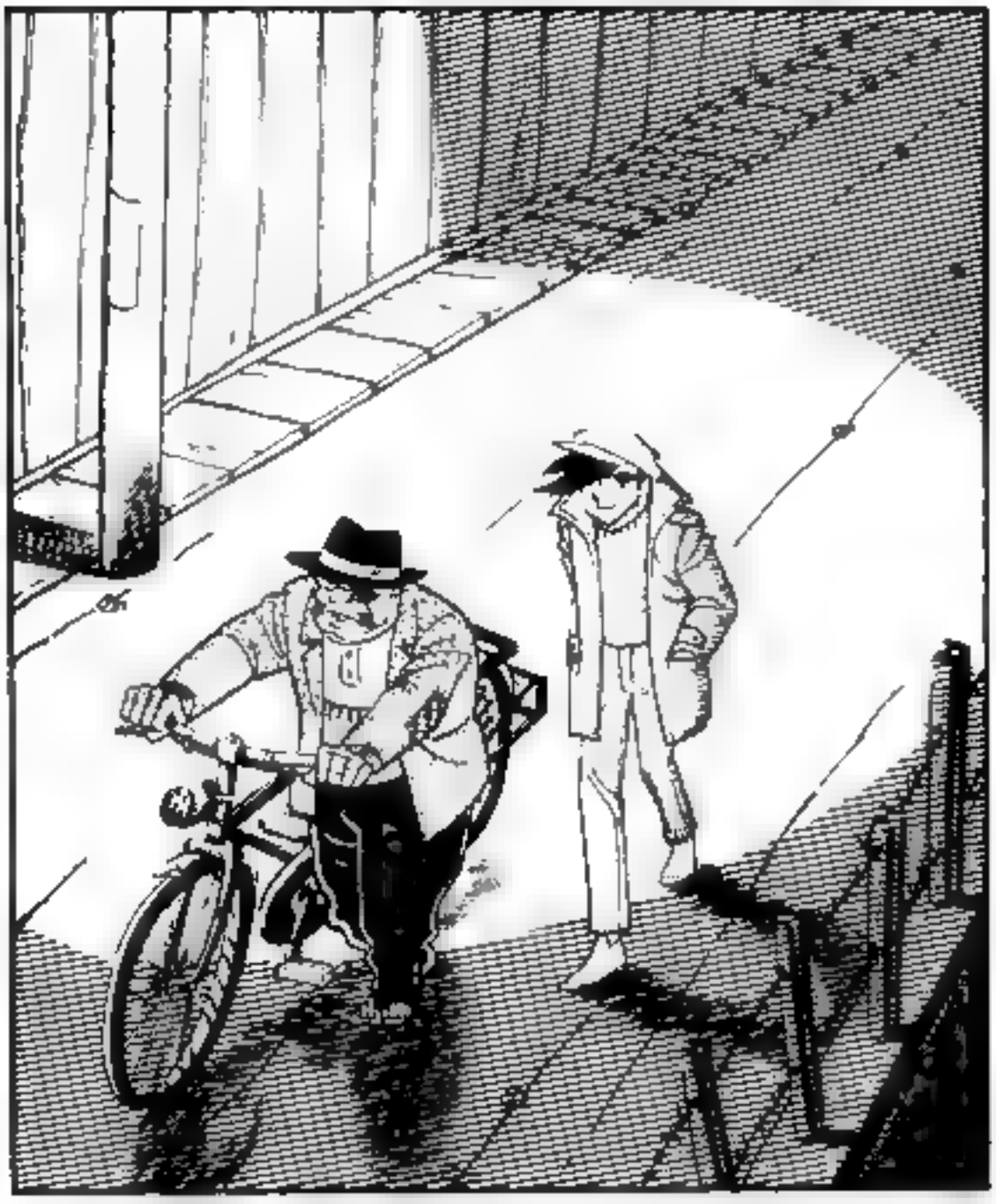
HEY, THERE.

IT'S NOT TOO OFTEN I SEE THE TWO OF YOU OUT ON A STROLL THIS LATE.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOUR NEXT MATCH IS, 'CAUSE I'LL BE THERE TO CHEER YOU ON FOR SURE!

HELLO, JOE. THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A FIGHT.

LET'S GO TO HAWAII THEN.
SOUNDS INTE-RESTING.



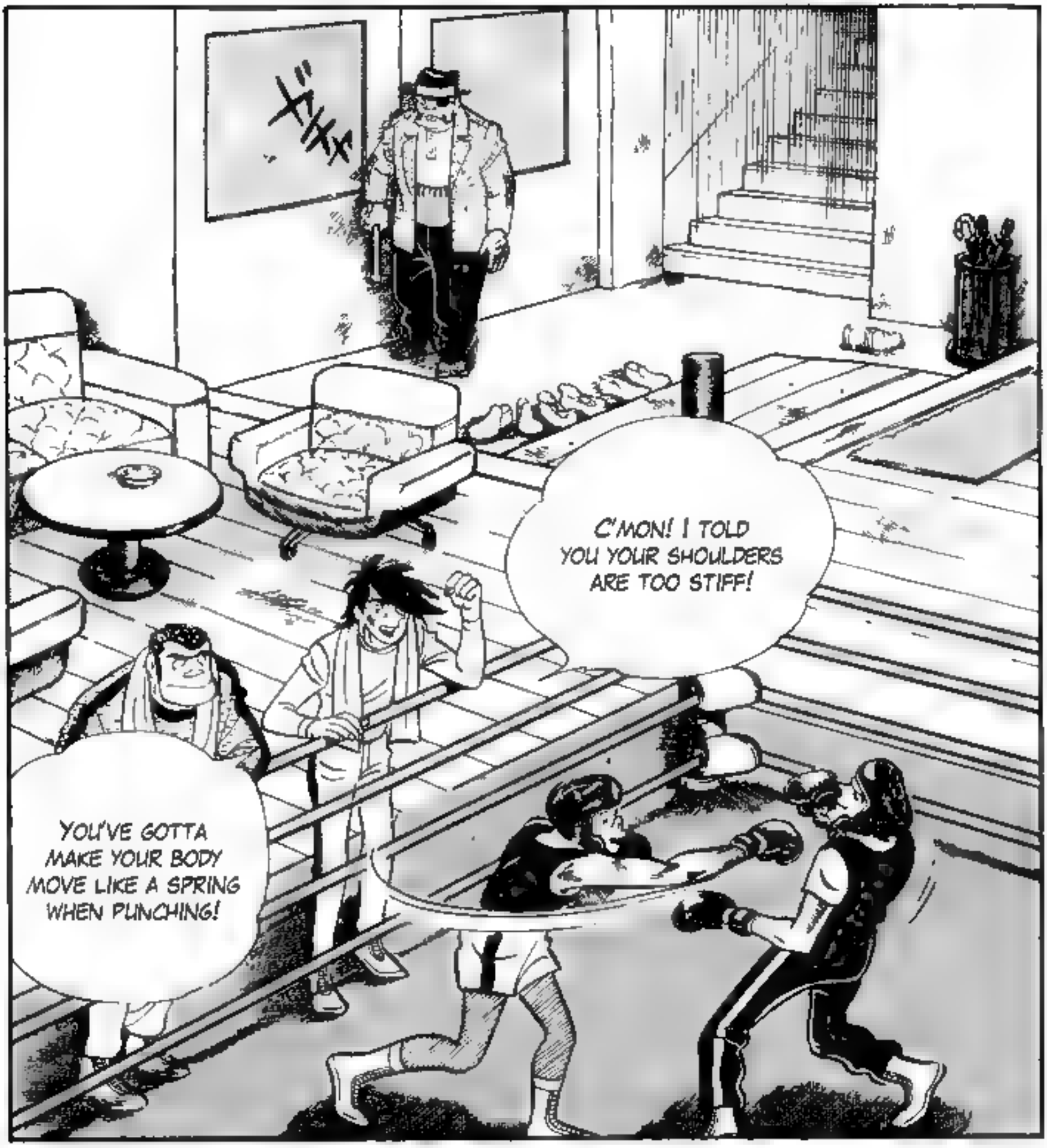
MAKE SURE TO TELL OOHASHI FOR ME,

ALRIGHT!?

I'M GONNA HEAD HOME FIRST THEN! HAHAHA!

THAT I'M COMPLETELY DOWN FOR HAWAII!

...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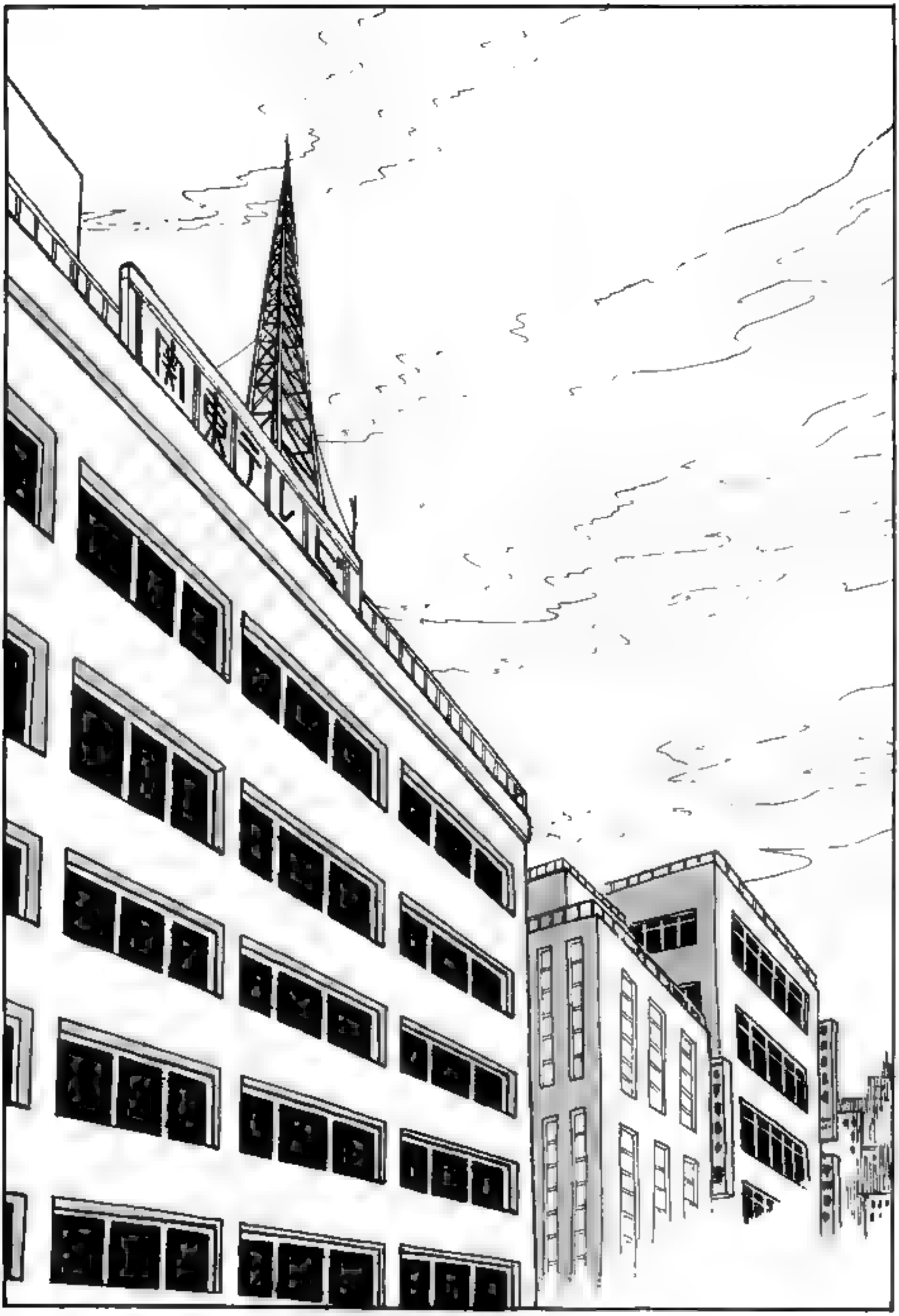
C'MON! I TOLD YOU YOUR SHOULDERS ARE TOO STIFF!
YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE YOUR BODY MOVE LIKE A SPRING WHEN PUNCHING!

BUT I WONDER WITH THAT BODY....
SO YOU'RE DOWN WITH HAWAII, ARE YOU...



DIRECTOR OOHASHI, I'VE GOT A CALL WAITING FOR YOU.

SHINDOU, DID YOU GET NAGASHIMA'S SCHEDULE?

OH, THANKS.

YOU WILL HAVE TO COVER ALL 12 TEAMS THOUGH. YON'S HEADING OVER THERE WITH THE VIDEO CAMERA.

WHY DON'T YOU HANDLE THE REPORT ON HANSHIN TIGERS. THEY LIKE YOU, RIGHT?

HELLO, THIS IS THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT OF KANTO TV.

WELL?

GAME OVER, MAN.

SHOOT... THIS IS LOOKING BAD.

4 SERVINGS OF THE USUAL! AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT THIS TIME, OR WE'LL ORDER FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE NEXT TIME!

FROM WHOM?

SIR, I HAVE A CALL FOR YOU.

I WAS JUST GETTING YOUR PASSPORT AND VISAS IN ORDER FOR THE UPCOMING HAWAII TRIP.

OH HELLO, MR. TANGE.

THE PRESIDENT OF TANGE GYM, SIR.

YOU WANT TO CANCEL IT?

PARDON?

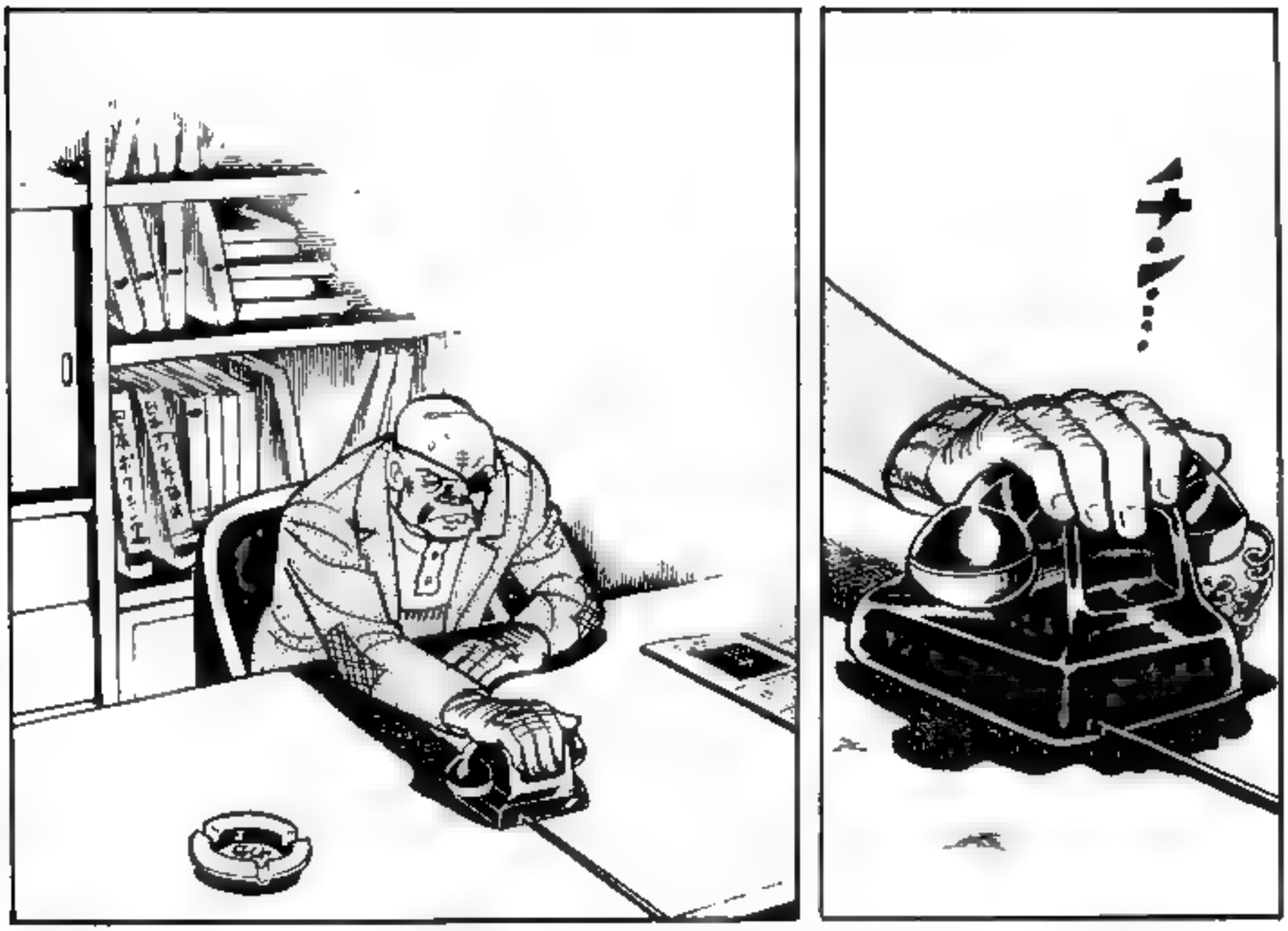
W-WHAT DO YOU M-

AND I'VE MADE SURE TO BOOK A SUITE FOR YOU AT A HOTEL AS GRAND AS THE ONE MENDOZA HIMSELF WILL BE STAYING AT!

HAHAHA!

YOU CAN'T JUST CANCEL NOW!
B-B-BUT WE'VE ALREADY PRINTED AND STARTED DISTRIBUTING THE POSTERS!

WELL, I'M NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN ON HIS CONDITION BUT I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
I'M AFRAID JOE'S JUST NOT-
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS BUT MY FIGHTER...
Y... YES, BUT...
I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO PUT A STOP TO THE PLANS.
I'M SORRY, SIR.
GOOD-BYE.
NO, WAIT! HELLO? HELLO!?


ナ・ノ…

JOE...!

HE WENT OUT RUNNING JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, SIR.

JOE! COME HERE THIS INSTANT!

HE SEEMS PRETTY EXCITED AFTER HEARING HE COULD MEET THE WORLD CHAMP IN HAWAII.

SO HE'S THAT FIRED UP, IS HE...

!!

I SEE...

HE AIN'T JUST EXCITED. YOU CAN JUST FEEL THE HEAT COMING FROM HIS FLAMES!

THEN JOE'S ALREADY FINISHED AS A BOXER.

IF MY EYES AREN'T WRONG,

AND HE'S TAKEN COUNTLESS BRUTAL BLOWS...

HIS BODY'S BEEN STRAINED TOO MUCH,

EVEN THE PUNCHING BALL'S IN THIS CONDITION DUE TO YABUKI'S EXCITEMENT.

MR. TANGE, TAKE A LOOK!

HE'S ALREADY ON THE WAY TO BECOMING FULLY CRIPPLED...

HE NEEDS NEW JUMPING ROPES TOO.

AND LOOK AT THESE GLOVES ALL WORN-OUT FROM HITTING THE SANDBAG...

...

YEAH.

W-WHO ELSE BUT HIM IN THIS GYM COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

JOE DID THIS...?

I SAID CALL JOE BACK RIGHT THIS INSTANT!

R-RIGHT AWAY!

I SHOULD TEST HIM BEFORE I DECIDE.

MAYBE,

. . . .

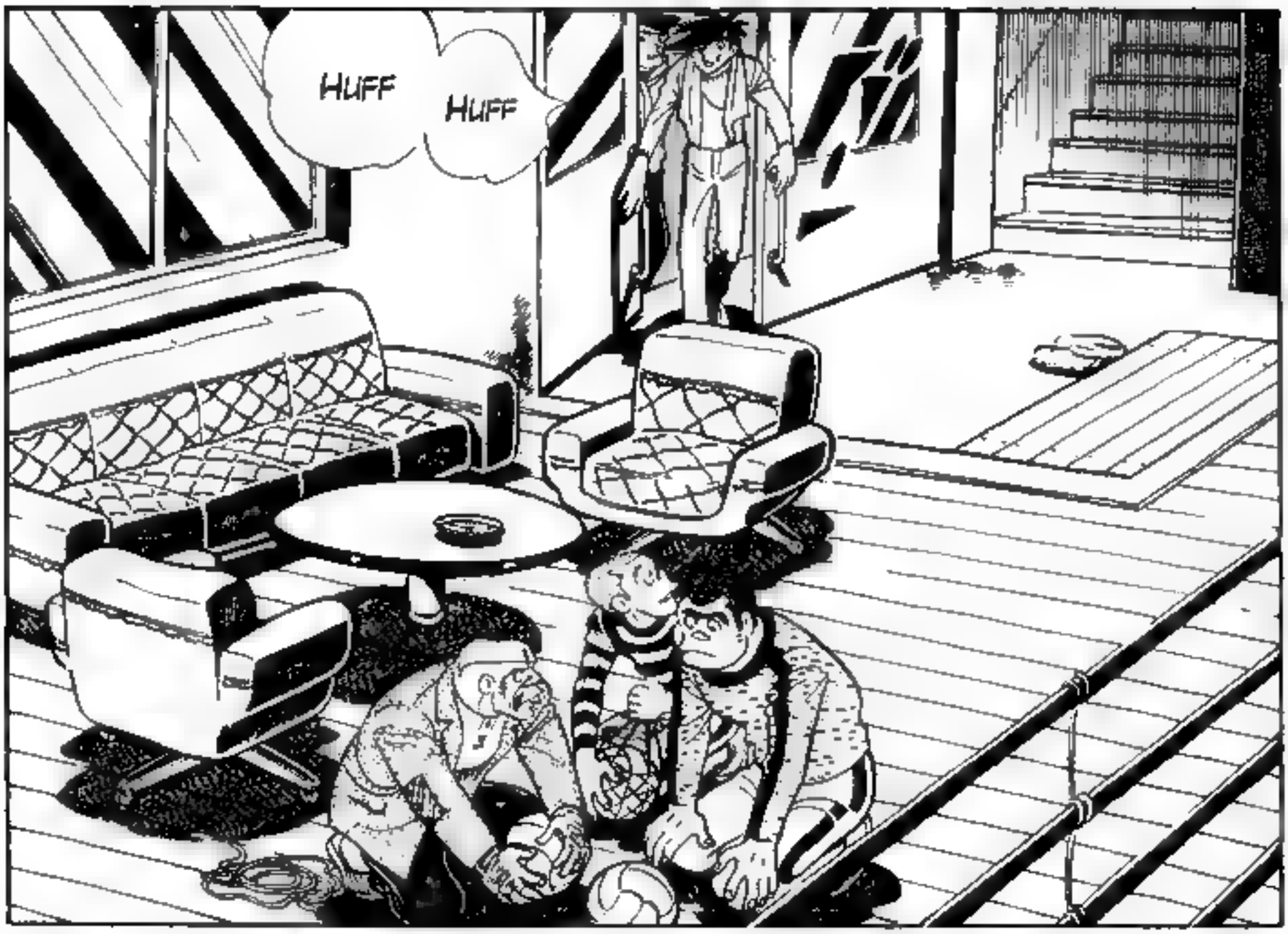
HUH?

KOUNO! GO OUT ON YOUR BIKE AND CALL JOE BACK!

O-OKAY...

GOT IT?

AND YOU TWO. GET ME ALL THE BALLS FROM THE STORAGE ROOM.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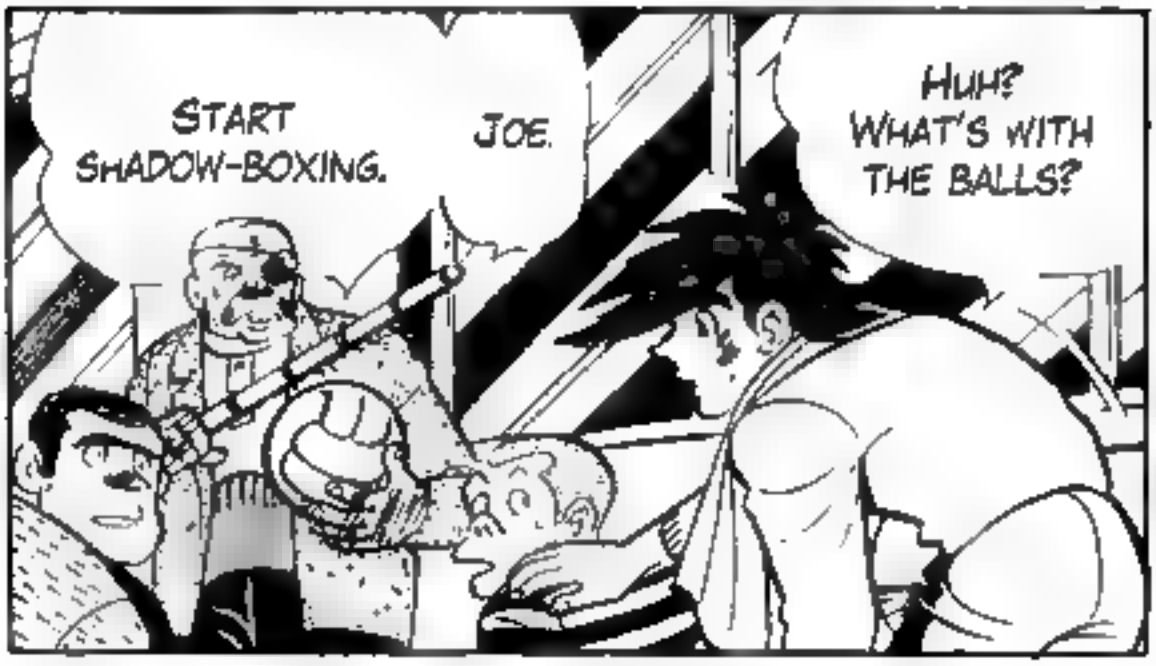
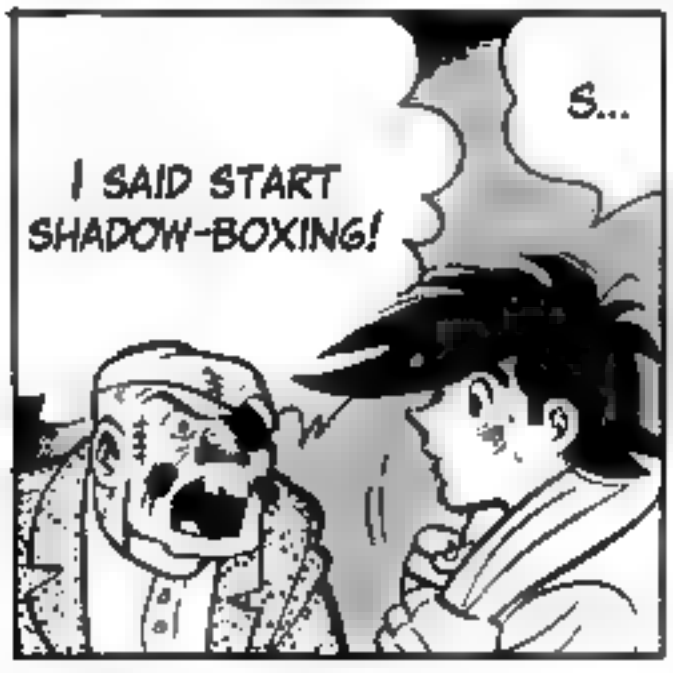
HUFF


START SHADOW-BOXING.
JOE.
HUH? WHAT'S WITH THE BALLS?

WHY'D YA INTERRUPT ME WHEN I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY RUN?
SO WHAT'S UP?


I SAID START SHADOW-BOXING!
S...

HUH?

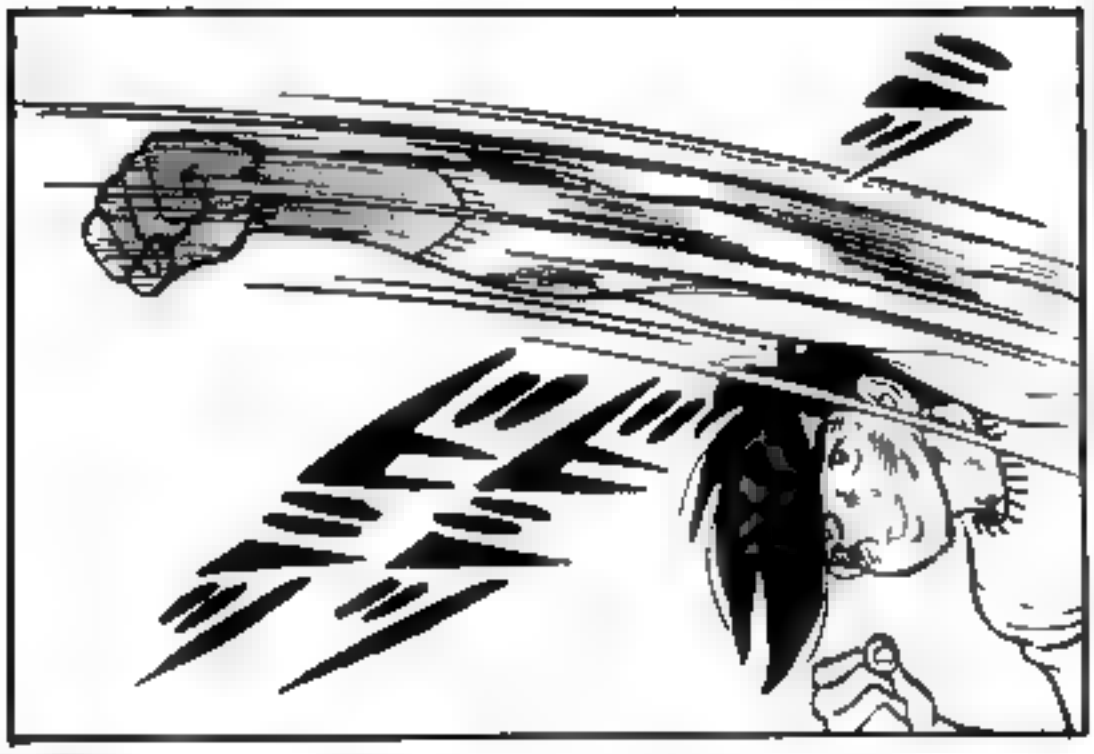
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, BUT...

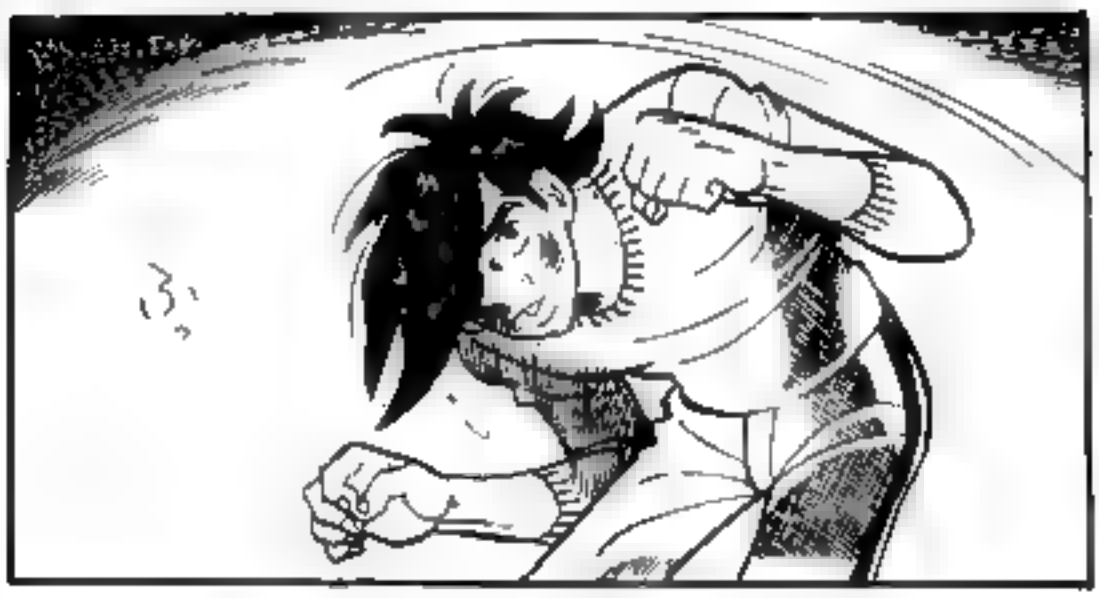
HA.

JUST DO IT, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

W-WHY'RE YOU...

HOW'S THIS!?



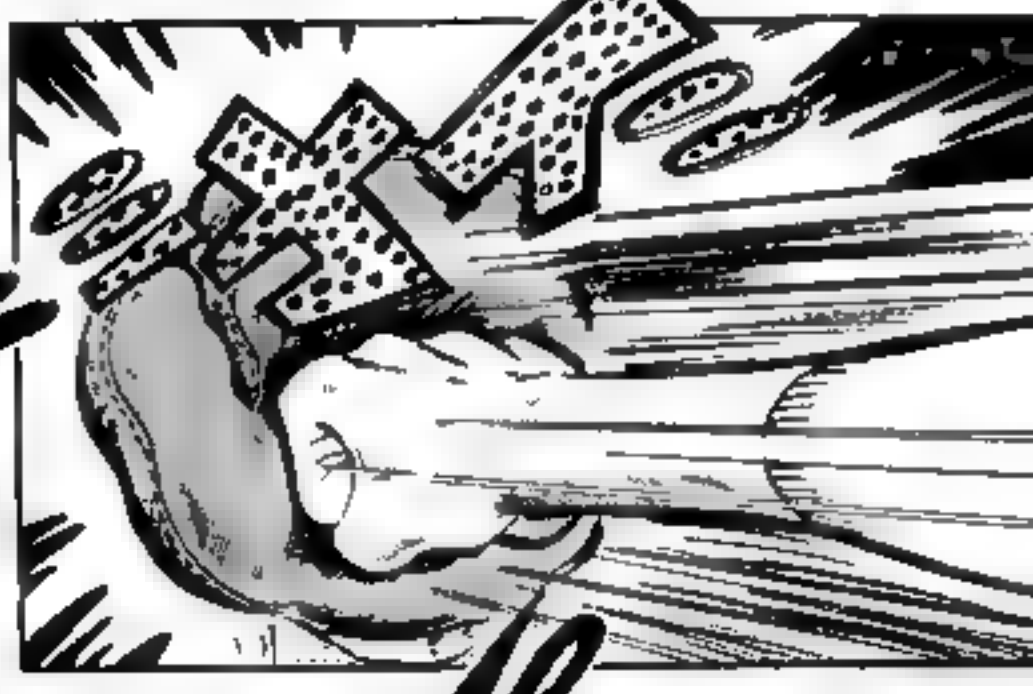


HM...

COME AT ME!

WHOOSH

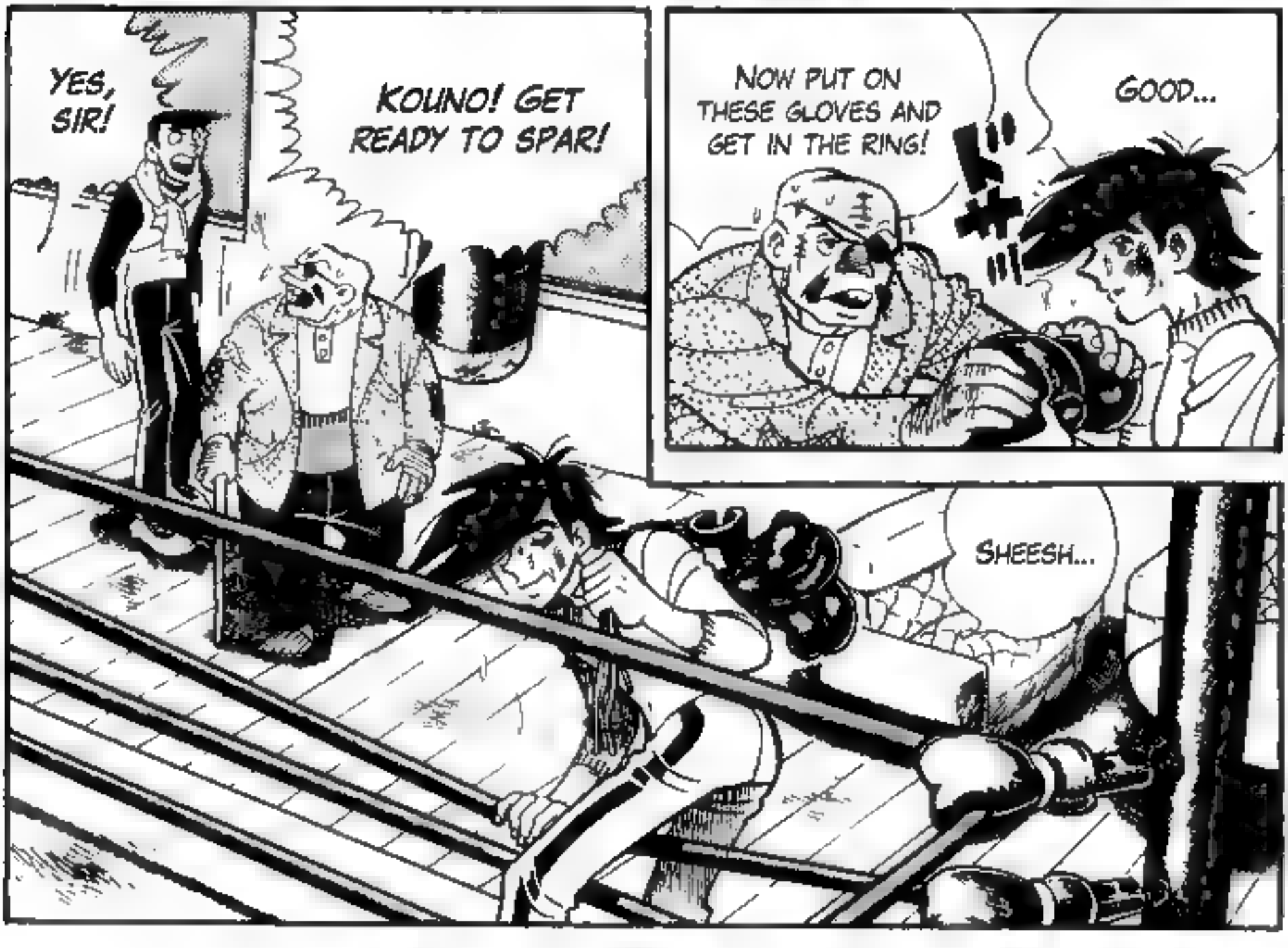
HA.



T-THAT'S ENOUGH, JOE!
E-ENOUGH!

WHOA-
A-AHHH...

HUFF
PANT
PANT
HUFF
HEH
HEH.


YES, SIR!
KOUNO! GET READY TO SPAR!
NOW PUT ON THESE GLOVES AND GET IN THE RING!
GOOD...
SHEESH...

A-A-ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HE'S GONNA DESTROY ME!

W-WAIT. ARE YOU TELLING ME TO SPAR WITH YABUKI?

IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVEN IF THEY'RE 50OZ. GLOVES!

スッ…!

I'VE PUT ON 16 OZ. PRACTICE GLOVES ON HIM.

DON'T WORRY.

F-FINE, I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO IT.

DON'T FORGET YOUR MOUTH GUARD!

FIGHT SERIOUSLY!

AHAHA... OH I WOULDN'T...

FEEL FREE TO FIGHT SERIOUSLY, KOUNO.

RING THE BELL!

THAT'S-

B-BUT...

OH SH...

GET YOUR DAMN TAIL OUT OF YER LEGS AND FIGHT 'IM!

GO!

C'MON, KOUNO.

EVEN I...

F-FINE... SO BE IT THEN...

THAT THE LOCAL HOODLUMS BACK IN MY HOME OF CHIGASAKI,

KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT FIGHTING,

KNEW NOT TO MESS WITH ME!

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, YOU'VE GOTTA PUT YOUR HIPS INTO YOUR PUNCHES MORE.

DID YA FORGET?

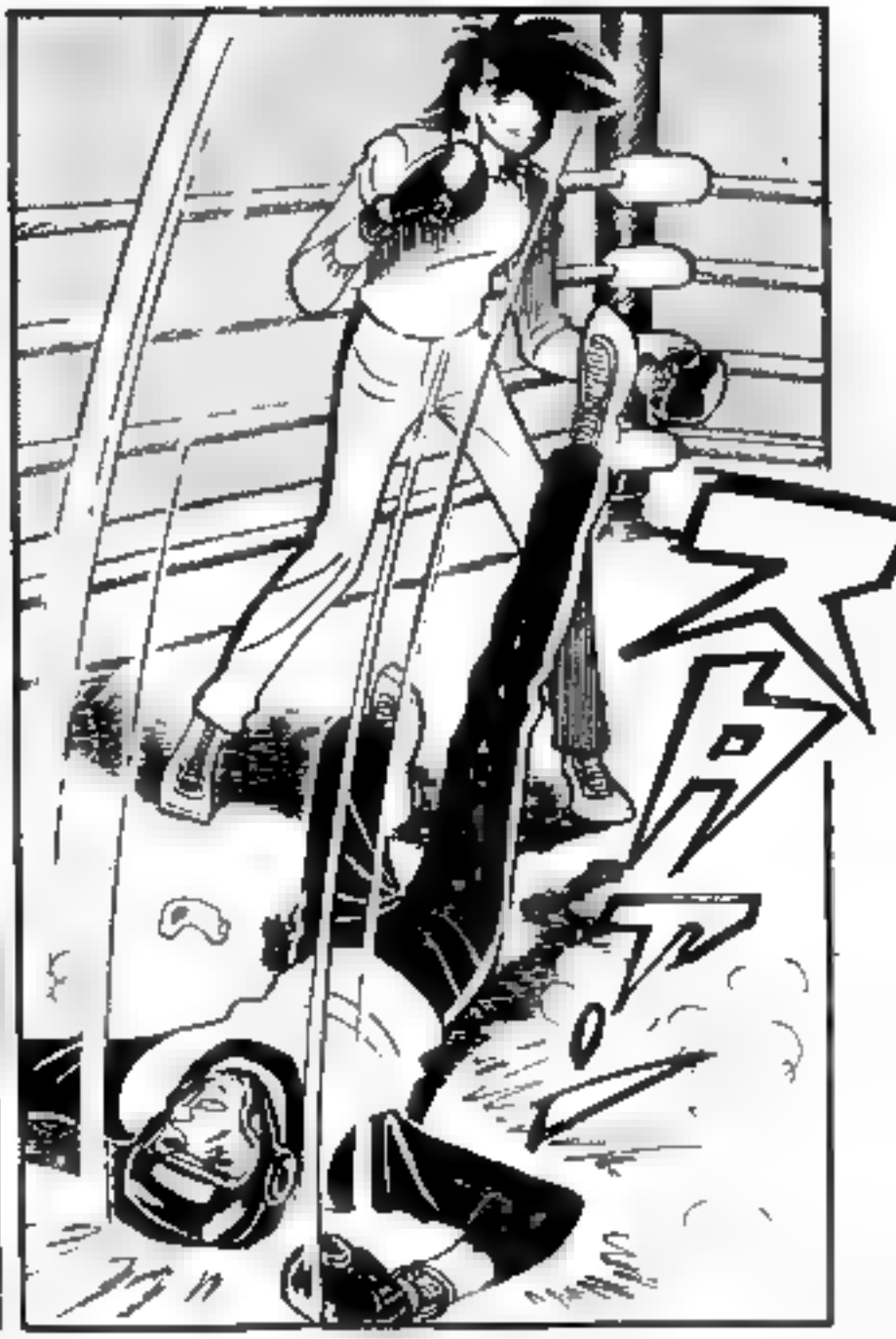
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT COACHING HIM! I TOLD YOU TO FIGHT HIM!

NGH!

DAMN IT!

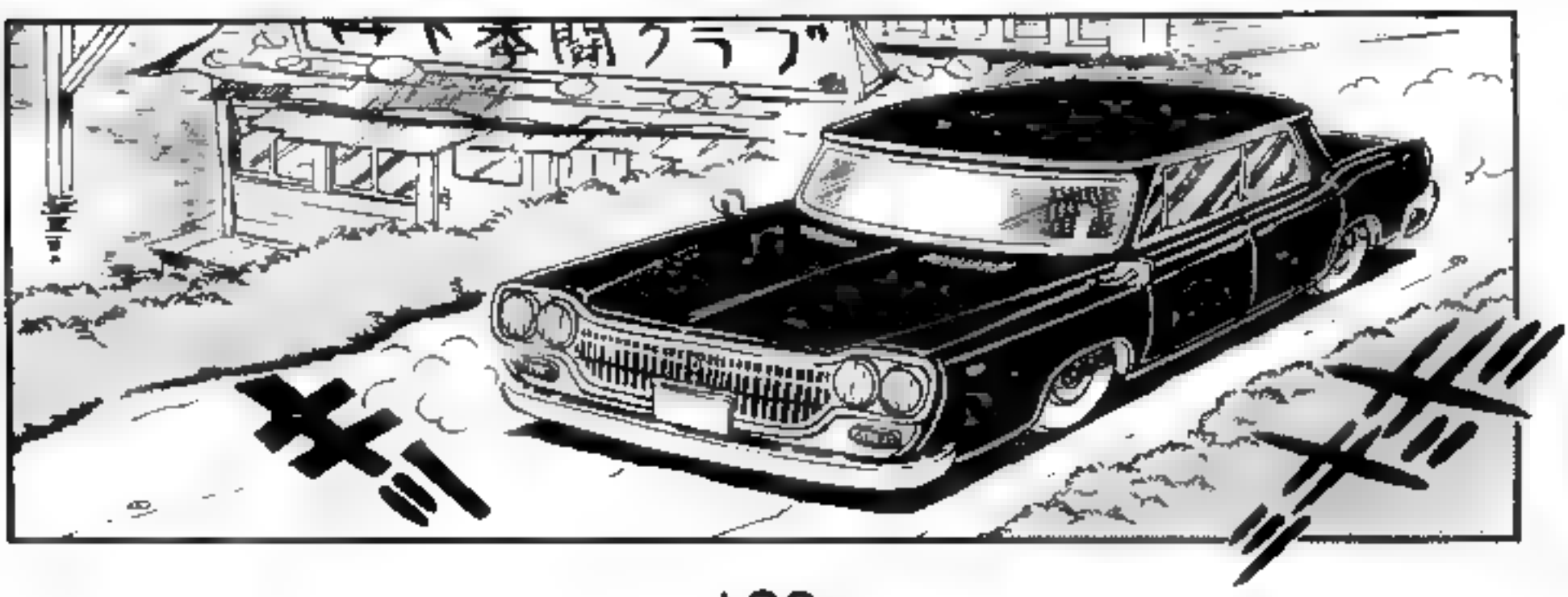
FINE, FINE...

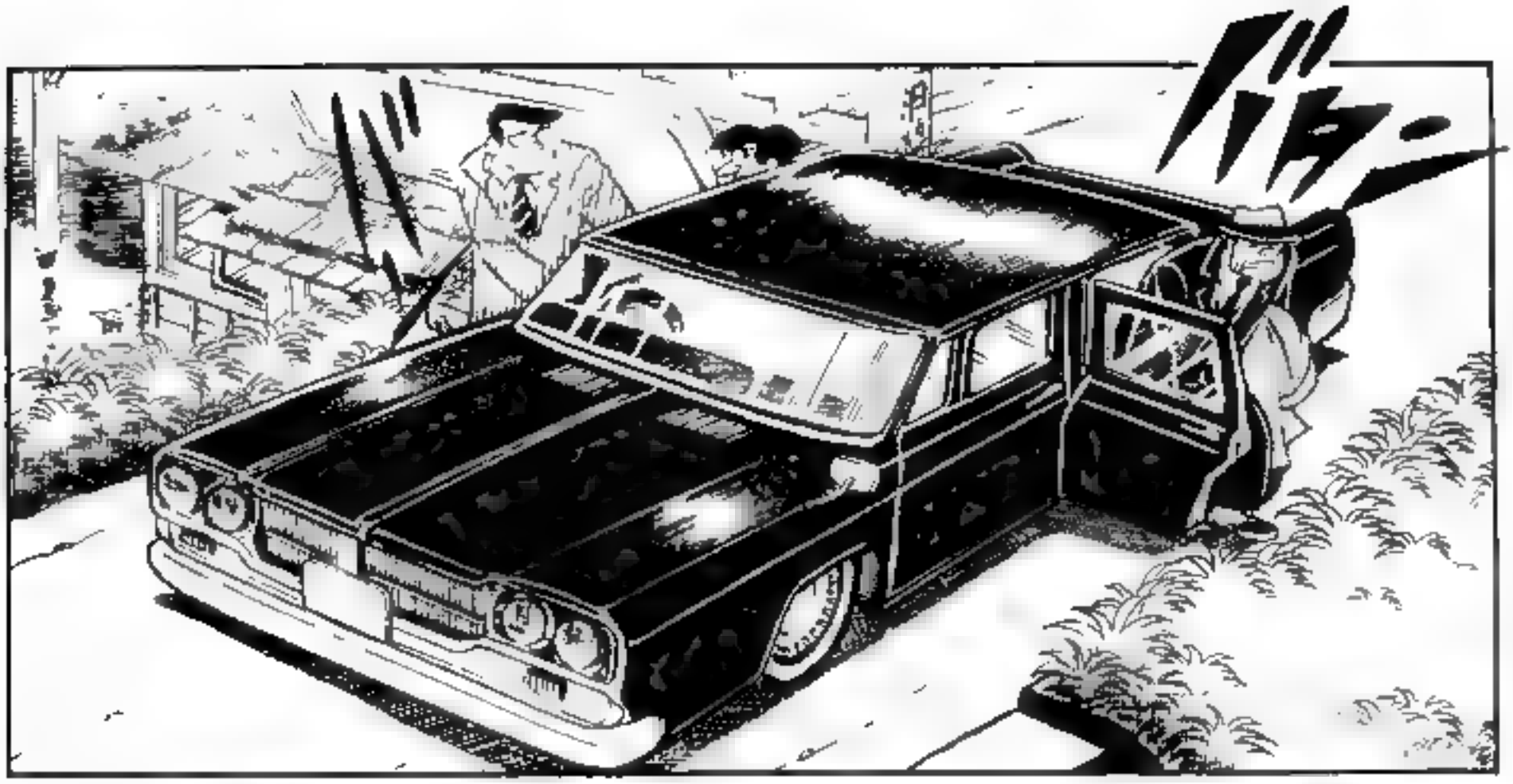
HOLY MOLY...

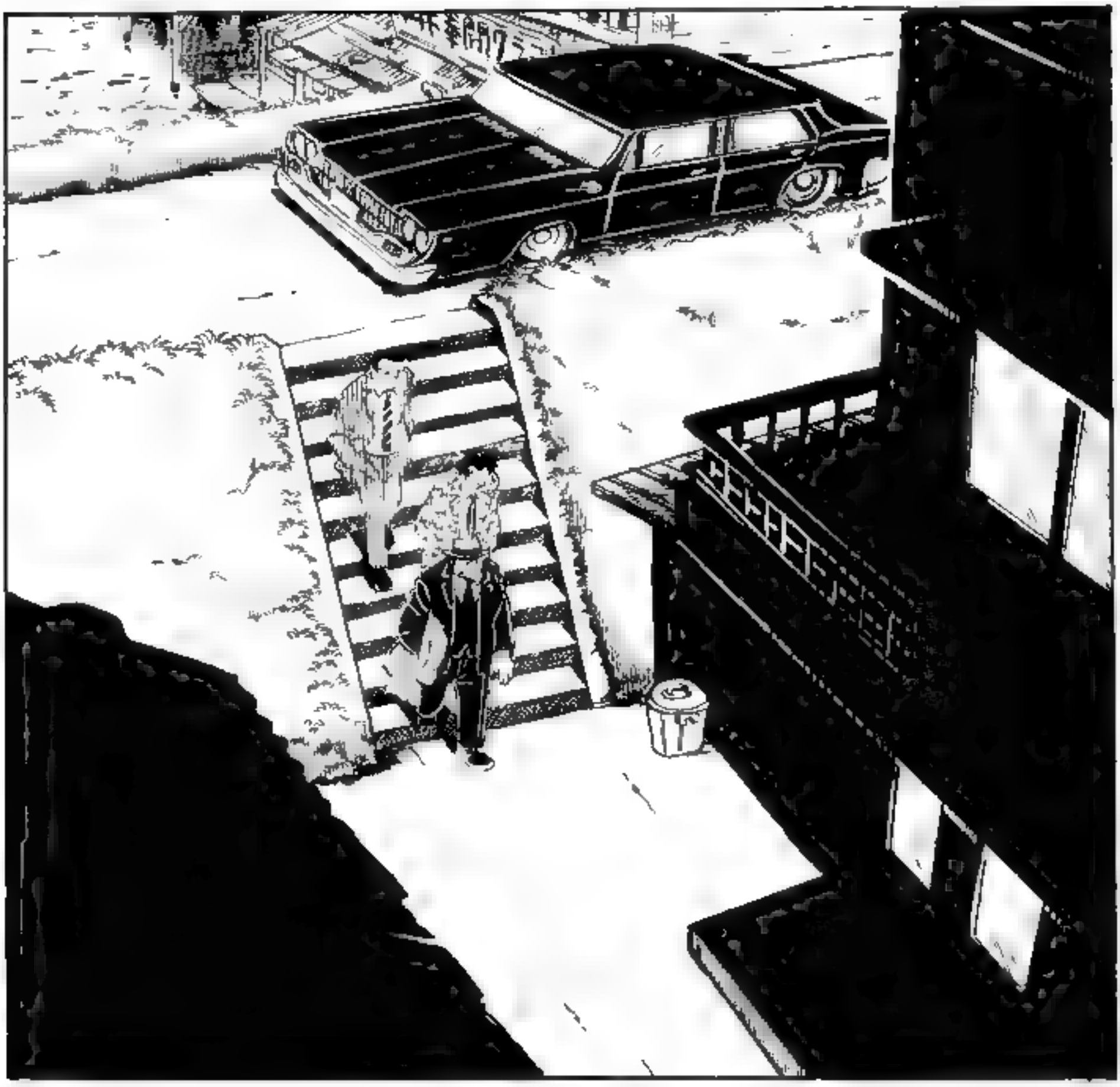


W-WHO, ME!?

YOSHIZAWA, YOU'RE NEXT!







...

HE'S OUT STONE COLD FOR SURE.

W-WAKE UP, KOUNO!

DO WITHOUT THE MEALS THEN.

I... I THINK I'LL...

NO MEALS FOR YOU FOR A WEEK IF YOU DON'T!

YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO KOUNO.

G-GIVE ME A BREAK, PREZ...

PUT YOUR GLOVES AND HEAD GEAR ON!

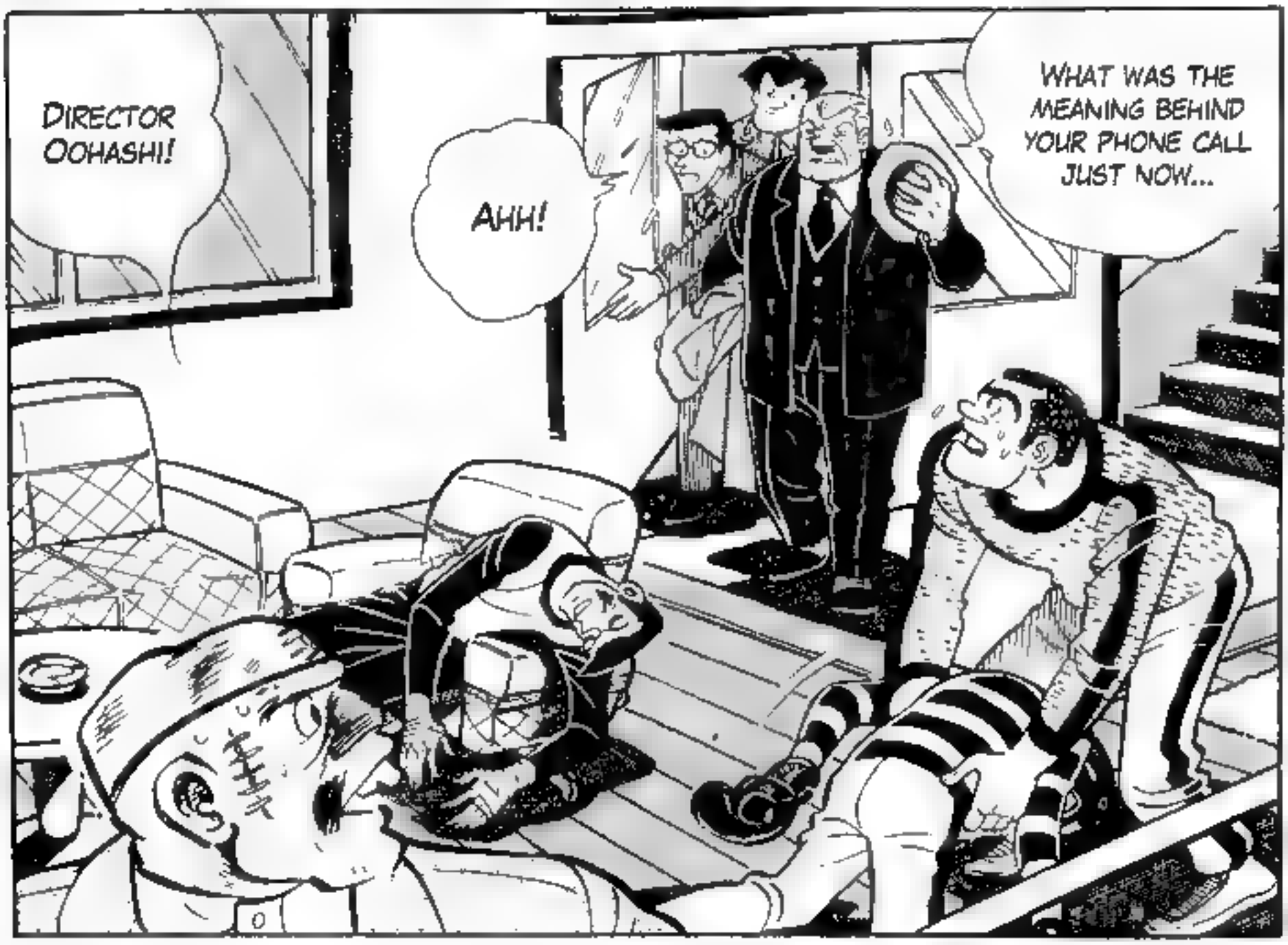
C'MON, YOSHI-ZAWA!

I'LL DO IT!

OKAY, OKAY!

WHY YOU SON OF A-

MR. TANGE!


DIRECTOR OOHASHI!
AHH!
WHAT WAS THE MEANING BEHIND YOUR PHONE CALL JUST NOW...

ARAKAWA! YOU'RE NEXT!

WE CAN HAVE A THOROUGH TALK IN JUST A BIT.

AH, PLEASE GIVE ME A MOMENT.

. . . .

WHAT, WOULD YOU RATHER GIVE UP BOXING AND GO BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN?

UMM...

OH MOMMY...

DON'T BE SO SCARED...

I'LL PUT YA,

TO REST QUICKLY!

GUESS YOU'RE UP NEXT, OLD MAN.

I. I'LL GO BACK TO MY HOMETOWN.

OHHHHHH!

NOW GET OUTSIDE!

WHO'S GONNA TEST YOU IF I'M NOT AROUND!

WAIT, NO!

A TEST...?

STOP WASTING TIME AND GET OUTSIDE, JOE!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL TH-

MY APOLOGIES BUT PLEASE JUST GIVE US A MOMENT.

WHAT'RE YOU HANGING THOSE BALLS FOR?

JUST SHUT UP AND STAND RIGHT THERE.

GIMME A BREAK ALREADY, OLD MAN.

AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A TEST?

ALRIGHT, JOE. PRETEND THESE BALLS ARE MENDOZA'S FISTS. DO YOUR BEST TO WEAVE AROUND OR DUCK UNDER THEM.

AHH JEEZ... GUESS THE OLD MAN'S FINALLY TURNED SENILE.

C'MON. START THEN.

EVEN FOR KILLING TIME, THIS FEELS POINTLESS. BUT FINE, I'LL DO IT IF MAKES YOU HAPPY.

DON'T LOOK AWAY, Y'HEAR?

WE'RE STARTING THEN.

HERE I GO!

HEH HEH.

IF THESE BALLS REALLY WERE MENDOZA'S PUNCHES,

WHOA.

NICE TRY.

NOT EVEN CLOSE.

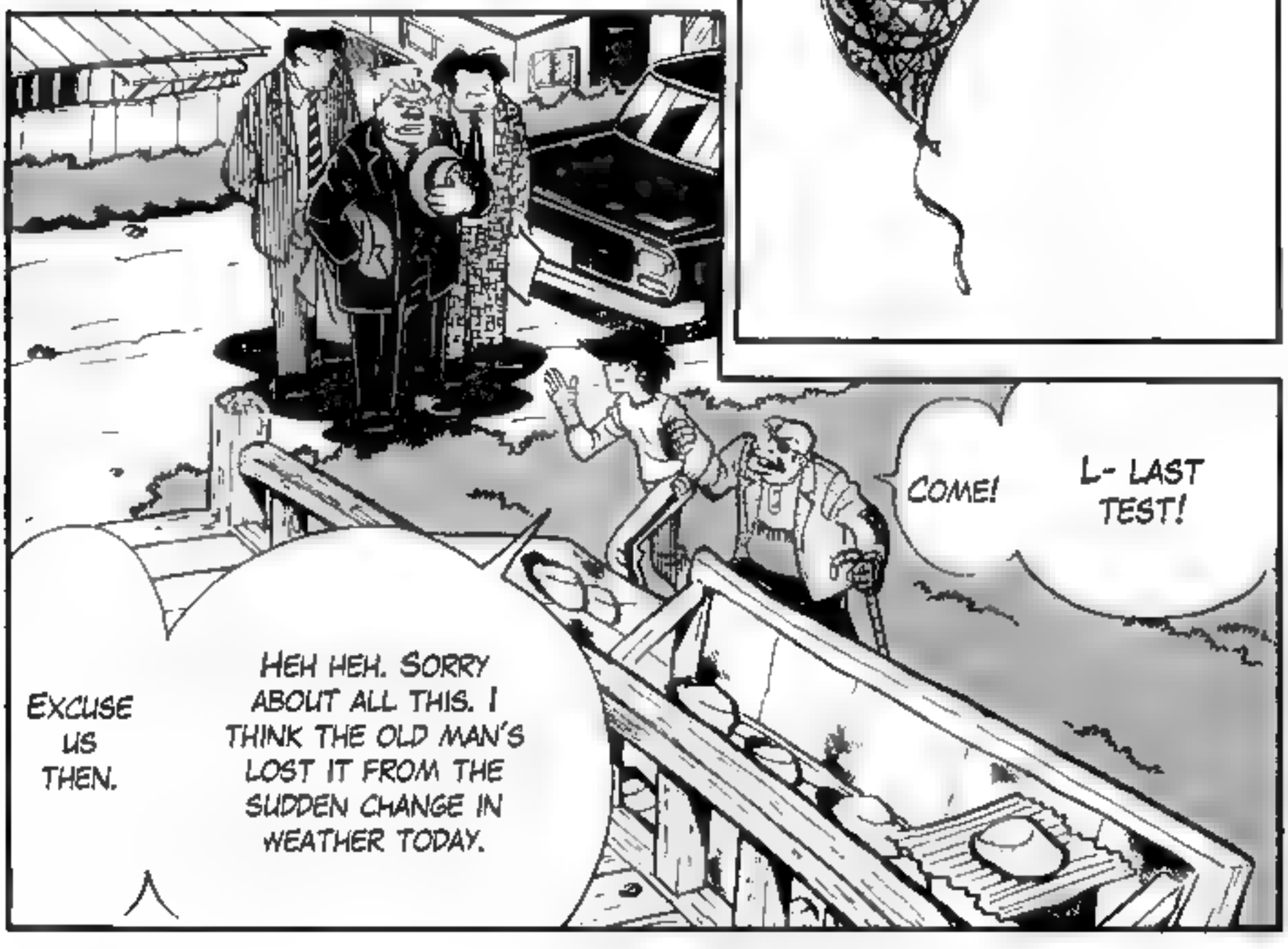
HA

THEN THAT WORLD-TITLE'S AS GOOD AS MINE AS SOON AS THE BELL RINGS.

I'D KO HIM,

IN AN INSTANT!

'CAUSE I'M GETTIN' TIRED OF YOUR GAMES.
IS PLAY TIME OVER NOW?
WELL?


EXCUSE US THEN.
HEH HEH. SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS. I THINK THE OLD MAN'S LOST IT FROM THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER TODAY.
COME!
L- LAST TEST!

I AIN'T NO YOSHITSUNE, Y'KNOW.

WHAT, ARE YA GONNA MAKE ME DANCE ON TOP OF THESE RAILINGS?

HEY!

WHERE YA GOING?

GET ON THESE RAILINGS!

WALK ALL THE WAAAY,

UP TO HERE!

ENOUGH BOASTING AND JUST WALK OVER HERE ALREADY!

TARO CAN EVEN DO THIS WITH HIS EYES CLOSED!

OH PLEASE... EVEN SACHI OR KINOKO COULD DO THIS.

FINE, FINE...

WHOA-

HEH

HEH

A PUNCH DRUNK BOXER SHOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY DODGING BALLS,

OR WALKING IN A STRAIGHT LINE...

SIR,

I THINK YABUKI'S RIGHT. MR. TANGE MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE OR SOMETHING TODAY...

SSHH! JUST STAY QUIET AND WATCH!

GO!

WHY DON'T I DO SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING?

SINCE IT'LL BE BORING IF I JUST WALK LIKE THIS,

HAHA

HERE I,

WHADDYA THINK?

THREE!

ONE, TWO...

TWO,

ONE,

THREE!

HAHA!

H-HE'S COMPLETELY FINE...

IT WAS ALL MY MISTAKE!

YOU'RE NOT PUNCH DRUNK AT ALL!

OHHH!

AND THERE!

IS THIS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA, RINGMASTER TANGE?

WITH MY BOY IN THIS SHAPE, HE'S READY TO FIGHT RIGHT THIS MOMENT IF HE HAS TO!

OF COURSE! YOU CAN TAKE US TO HAWAII, ALASKA, OR ANYWHERE ELSE YOU LIKE!

REALLY!?

DIRECTOR OOHASHI! I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE FUSS, BUT YOU CAN FORGET EVERYTHING I SAID EARLIER!

?...

AHAHAHA!

SURE, SURE!

COULDN'CHA SAY THAT I COULD EVEN BEAT MENDOZA RIGHT THIS MOMENT?

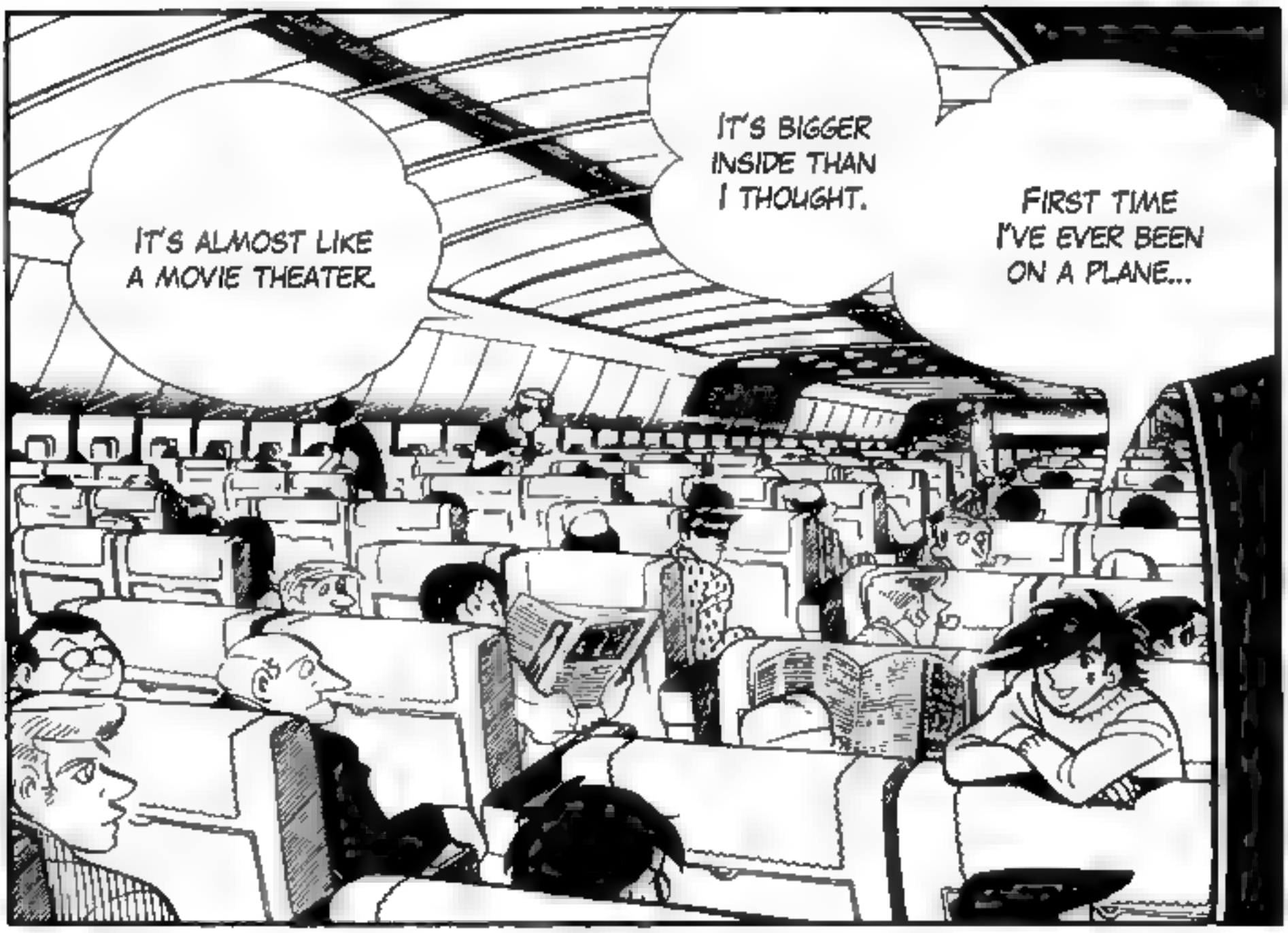
PSH.

# YABUKI JOE'S FIRST OVERSEAS EXPEDITION
## FLYING TO HAWAII FOR FIRST PACIFIC-TITLE DEFENSE AND TO SCOUT OUT WORLD CHAMPION

WILL YABUKI AND MENDOZA HAVE A REUNION IN HONOLULU!?

HIS NEXT OPPONENT: PINANG SARAWAK, THE RISING STAR OF SINGAPORE (RANKED 3RD IN THE PACIFIC)!

SO THIS IS A JUMBO-JET, EH?


IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MOVIE THEATER.
IT'S BIGGER INSIDE THAN I THOUGHT.
FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN ON A PLANE...

I BET A PLANE THIS SIZE COULD EVEN HAVE A BOXING RING INSIDE!
HEY, OLD MAN!

DOESN'T THAT SOUND COOL!?
JUST THINK! A WORLD-TITLE MATCH 10,000M ABOVE THE GROUND!

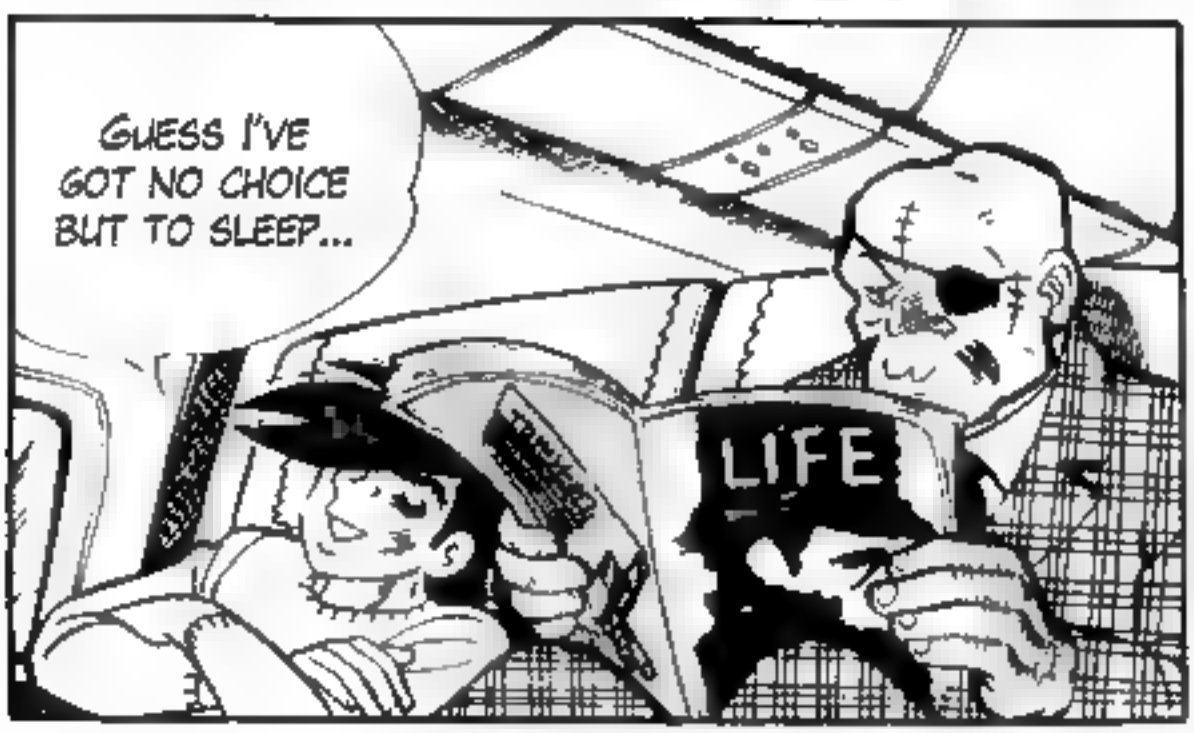
HARD TO BELIEVE SOMETHING SO HEAVY CAN FLY...
LIFE

SO GET SOME SLEEP NOW WHILE YOU CAN!
YOU'RE BOTHERING THE OTHER PASSENGERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'LL BE MORNING OVER IN HAWAII WHEN WE ARRIVE,

STOP CHATTERING AWAY, YOU IDIOT.

YAAAWWWWNN...

PFFT. WHO WAS IT THAT WAS CLINGING ON TO ME WHEN THE PLANE WAS TAKING OFF?
HMPH, ACTIN' ALL COOL LIKE YOU'VE FLOWN A MILLION TIMES?


GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO SLEEP...
LIFE

NOTHING BUT STARS TO SEE OUTSIDE, HUH...

LIFE
ZZZ...
LIFE
E-EXCUSE ME, MISS.
YES?
UMM...
I, UHH... HEARD THAT THE DUTY-FREE FOREIGN ALCOHOL WAS PRETTY CHEAP ON THESE PLANES...
YES, WHAT IS IT, SIR?

A- ANYTHING'S FINE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL THE NAMES FOR FOREIGN STUFF.

OF COURSE. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, SIR?

NOTHING BETTER THAN A DRINK TO FALL ASLEEP, Y'KNOW.

COULD YOU BRING SOME OF 'EM OUT?

OOOHH!

HERE YOU ARE.

JUST BRING ME A BOTTLE OF SOMETHING FANCY.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

HEH HEH...

EEHEE!

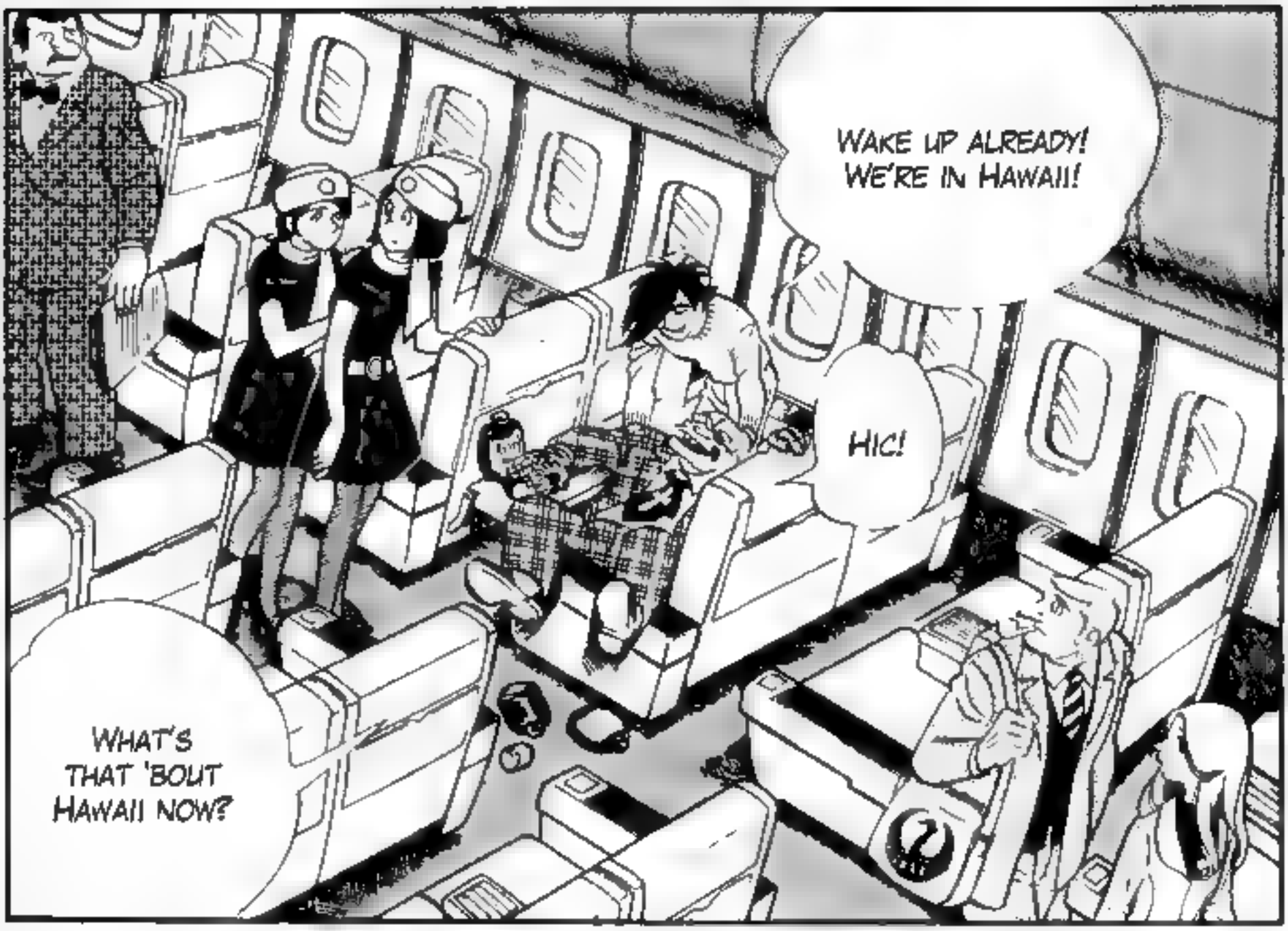
HEE!

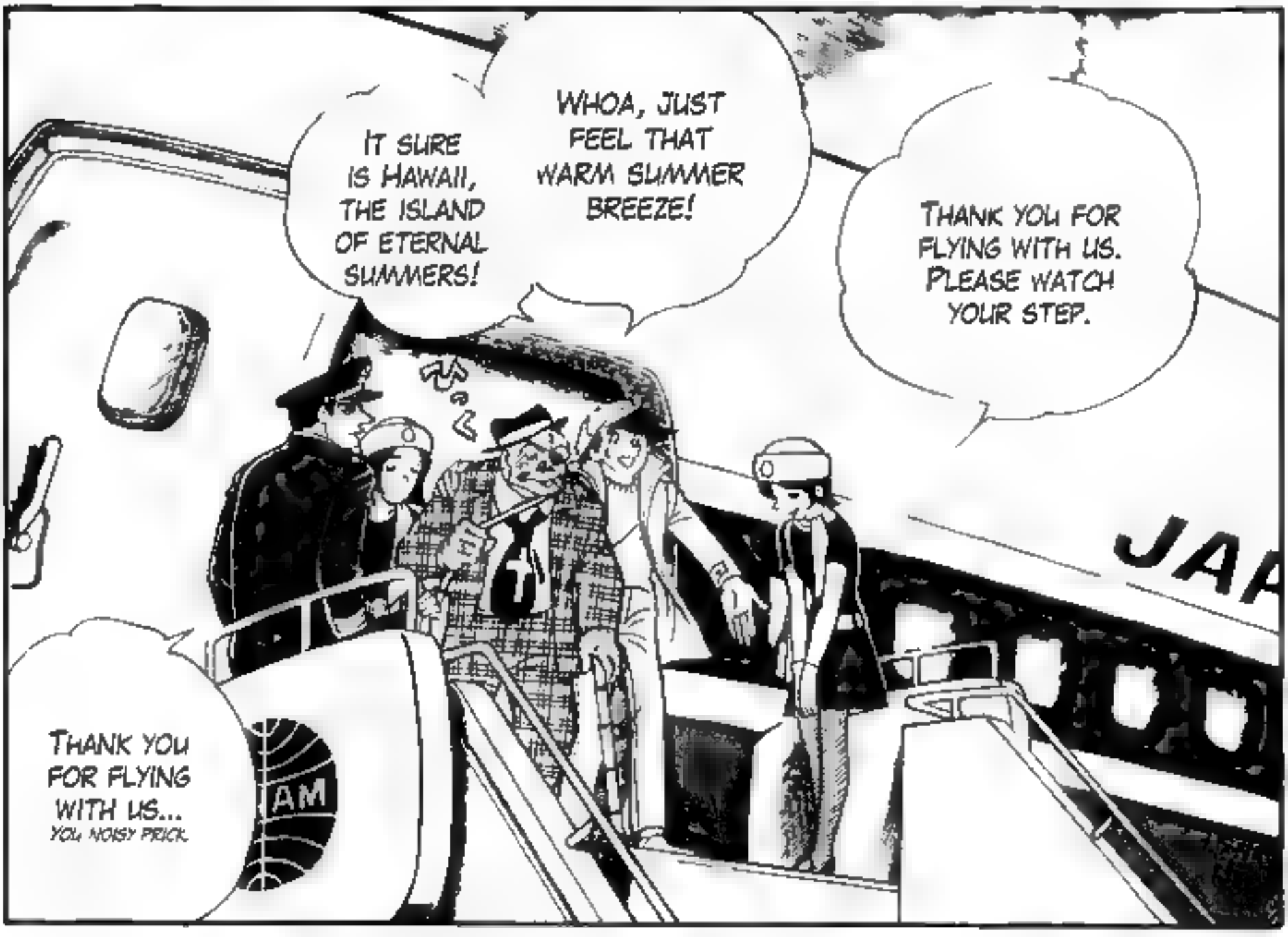
I CAN FEEL IT WARMING MY HEART RIGHT UP!

MM, THAT'S GOOD STUFF.

HEH HEH.

GOTTA GIVE IT YER BEST!
A HEY HEY! A HOY HOY!
SSHH!
GOD, YOU'RE NOISY...
SSHH!
SSHH!


WAKE UP ALREADY! WE'RE IN HAWAII!
HIC!
WHAT'S THAT 'BOUT HAWAII NOW?


IT SURE IS HAWAII, THE ISLAND OF ETERNAL SUMMERS!
WHOA, JUST FEEL THAT WARM SUMMER BREEZE!
THANK YOU FOR FLYING WITH US. PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.
THANK YOU FOR FLYING WITH US...
YOU NOISY PRICK.
AM
JAP

AHHH!

AH-

HUH?

WELL, OLD MAN?

AIN'T IT NICE OUT?

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR? ...OH JEEZ.

GOD, YOU'RE HELPLESS...

OWW OWW...

THE PACIFIC CHAMPION FROM JAPAN!

ALOHA, JOE YABUKI!

WELLCOME
ようこそ矢吹選手
JYOH YABUKI

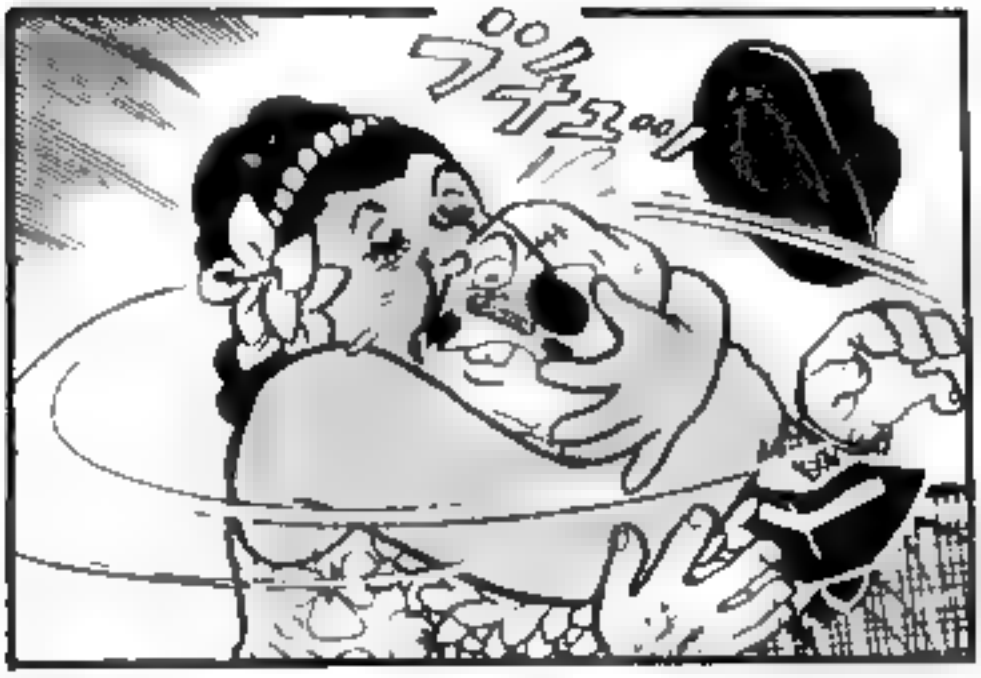
ALOHA

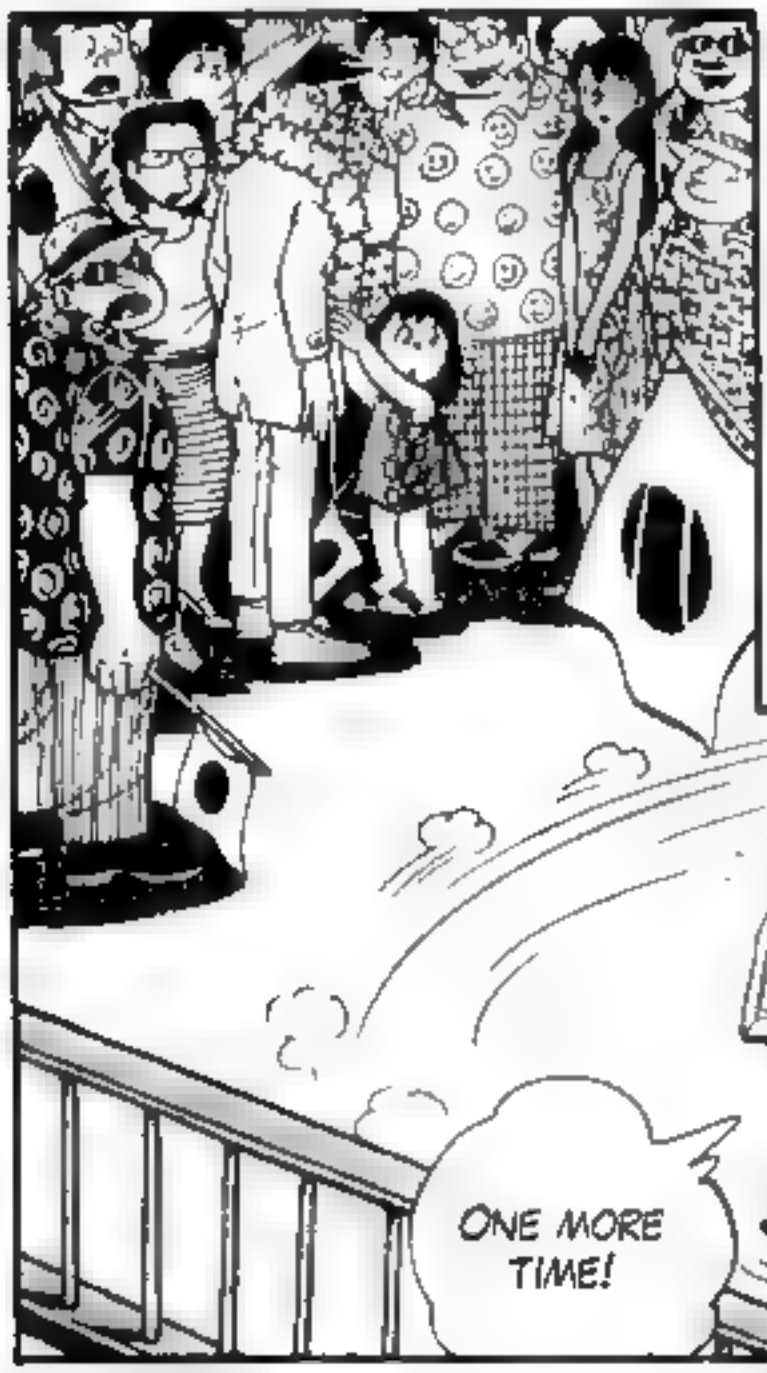
ALOHA, JOE!

WE THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY IN HAWAII EAGERLY ANTICIPATE YOUR PERFORMANCE HERE IN HAWAII.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

HIC!


ALOHA!

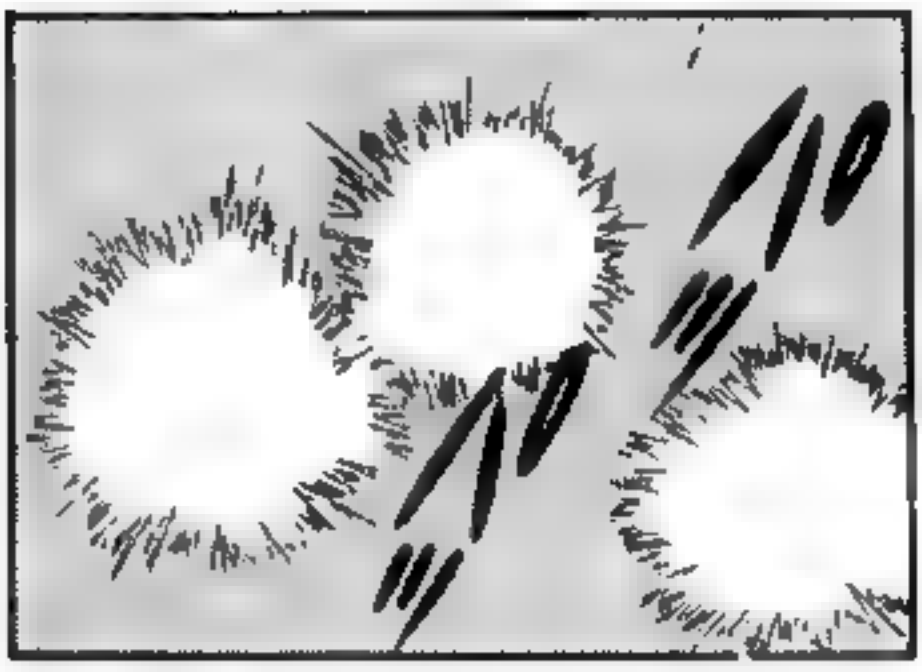


DAMN, THAT TICKLES.
W-WHOA CUT IT OUT. YOU CAN'T JUST LICK SOMEONE'S CHEEK LIKE THAT...

ONE MORE TIME!


AHAHAHA!
HAHAHA!
OH ACT YOUR AGE FOR GOD'S SAKE...
BÉSAME MUCHO...

OH, HERE TO PICK US UP?
WE'RE AGENTS FROM KANTO TV.
AH, MR. TANGE AND YABUKI!
JAPAN AIR LINE



I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
THANKS A LOT. TAKE THIS DRUNK BACK TO THE HOTEL.
WE HAVE A CAR WAITING JUST OUT IN FRONT.

!!!

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU ON YOUR FIRST TITLE-DEFENSE?

MR. YABUKI!

HEY, OLD MAN. DO YOUR BEST NOT TO LOOK LIKE A DRUNK DEADBEAT 'CAUSE THEY'RE TAKING PHOTOS OF US.

A PRESS SWARM, HUH.

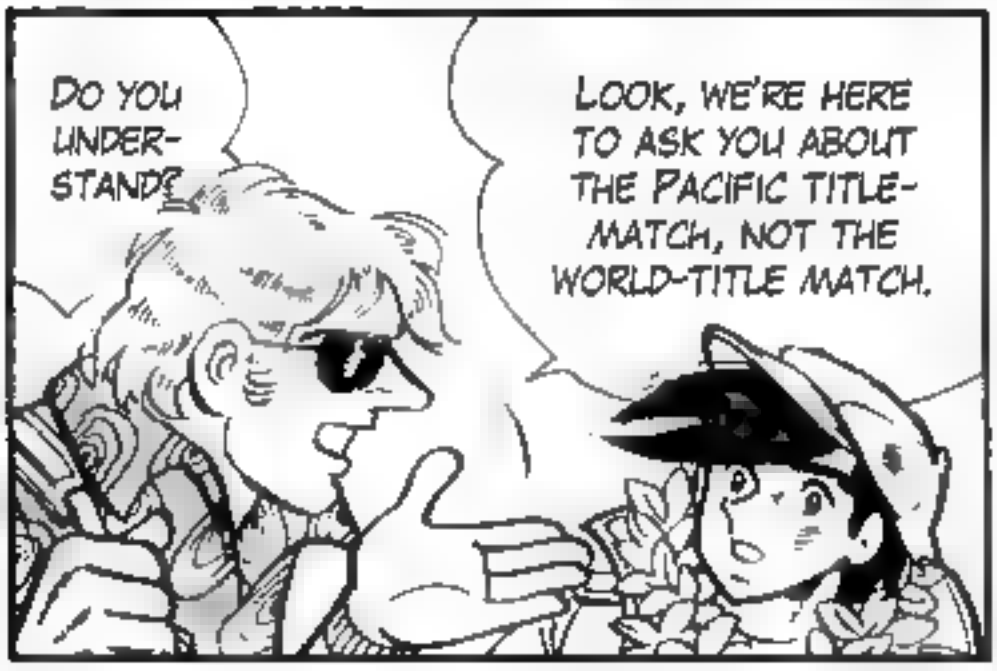
ゴキ

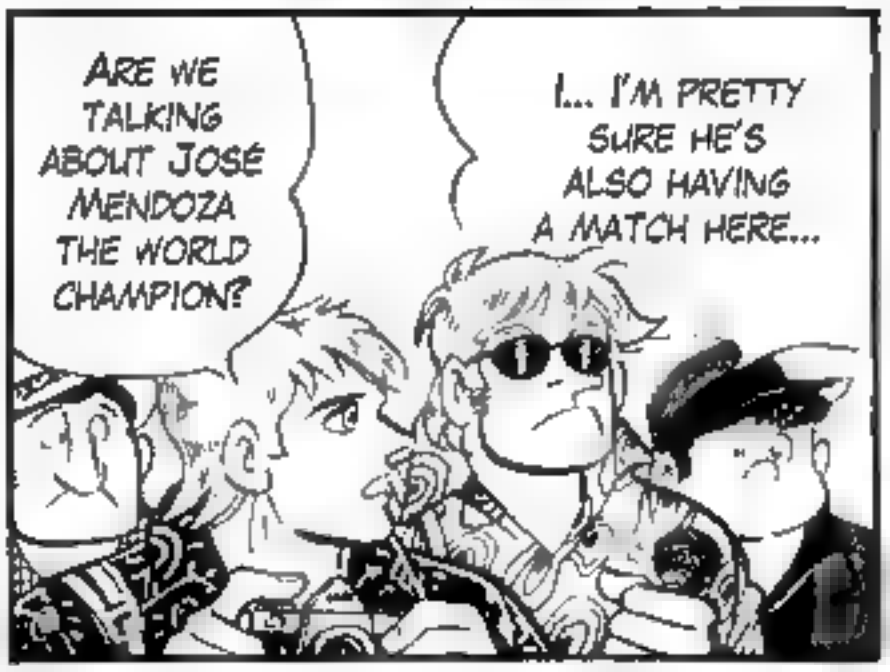
YOUR OPPONENT PINANG SARAWAK ALREADY ARRIVED HERE SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND IS NOW ALREADY TRAINING FOR THE FIGHT.

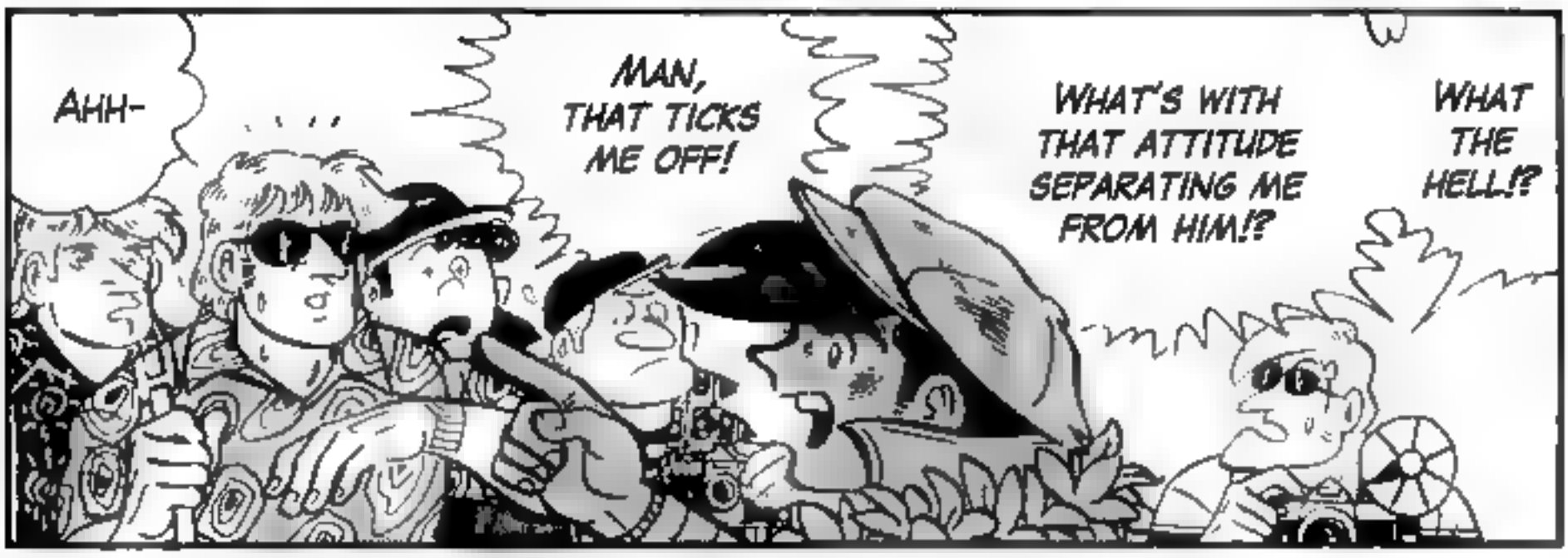
HOW'RE YOU FEELING?

COULD YOU POSE FOR THE CAMERA?

JOSÉ...?
HOW'S JOSÉ DOING?
ENOUGH ABOUT PINANG.
IS HE HERE IN HAWAII YET?


DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
LOOK, WE'RE HERE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE PACIFIC TITLE-MATCH, NOT THE WORLD-TITLE MATCH.


ARE WE TALKING ABOUT JOSÉ MENDOZA THE WORLD CHAMPION?
I... I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S ALSO HAVING A MATCH HERE...


AHH-
MAN, THAT TICKS ME OFF!
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE SEPARATING ME FROM HIM!?
WHAT THE HELL!?

THE WHOLE REASON WHY I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO HAWAII ISN'T FOR MY PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE BUT BECAUSE I'M MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE WORLD CHAMPION FIGHT!

NOW IF THAT'S CLEAR,

I DON'T CARE IF HIS NAME IS PINANG OR PIRRON! THAT GUY ISN'T IN MY SIGHTS AT ALL!

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME!

YOU GOT THAT!?

DRUNKS SHOULD KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.

DON'T GO SPOUTIN' OTHER CRAP.

ANSWER ONLY WHAT THEY ASK.

DON'T GET COCKY.

S... STOP IT, JOE.

. . . .
HAS HE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT ME?
WHERE AND WHAT'S JOSÉ DOING RIGHT NOW?
NOW LET ME ASK YOU REPORTERS A QUESTION.
IT'S CLOSE TO THE GYM YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO TRAIN AT.
KONAHA GYM?
YEAH.
THE CHAMP SHOULD BE... HITTING THE SANDBAG AT KONAHA GYM, RIGHT?
I AGREE.
U-UMM. I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
JUST WANNA TAKE A LOOK, THAT'S ALL.
WHY?
TAKE US TO KONAHA GYM FIRST.
YO, KANTO-DUDES. SKIP THE HOTEL FOR NOW.

KEEP THAT STUFF TO YOURSELVES.

HE AND I MIGHT BE FIGHTING ON DIFFERENT DAYS, BUT WE'RE LIKE COMRADES FIGHTING A TITLE-DEFENSE IN THE SAME PLACE.

I SUGGEST YOU ABANDON YOUR IDEA OF VISITING HIM.

THAT'S WHY FOR OTHER THAN PUBLIC TRAINING SESSIONS, HE HATES BEING WATCHED DURING HIS WORK-OUT.

THE CHAMP CAN GET A BIT HIGH-STRUNG WHEN IT COMES TO TRAINING.

YES... IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT MENDOZA'S NOT A FAN OF SPECTATORS.

L-LET'S NOT...

!!

AM I WRONG?

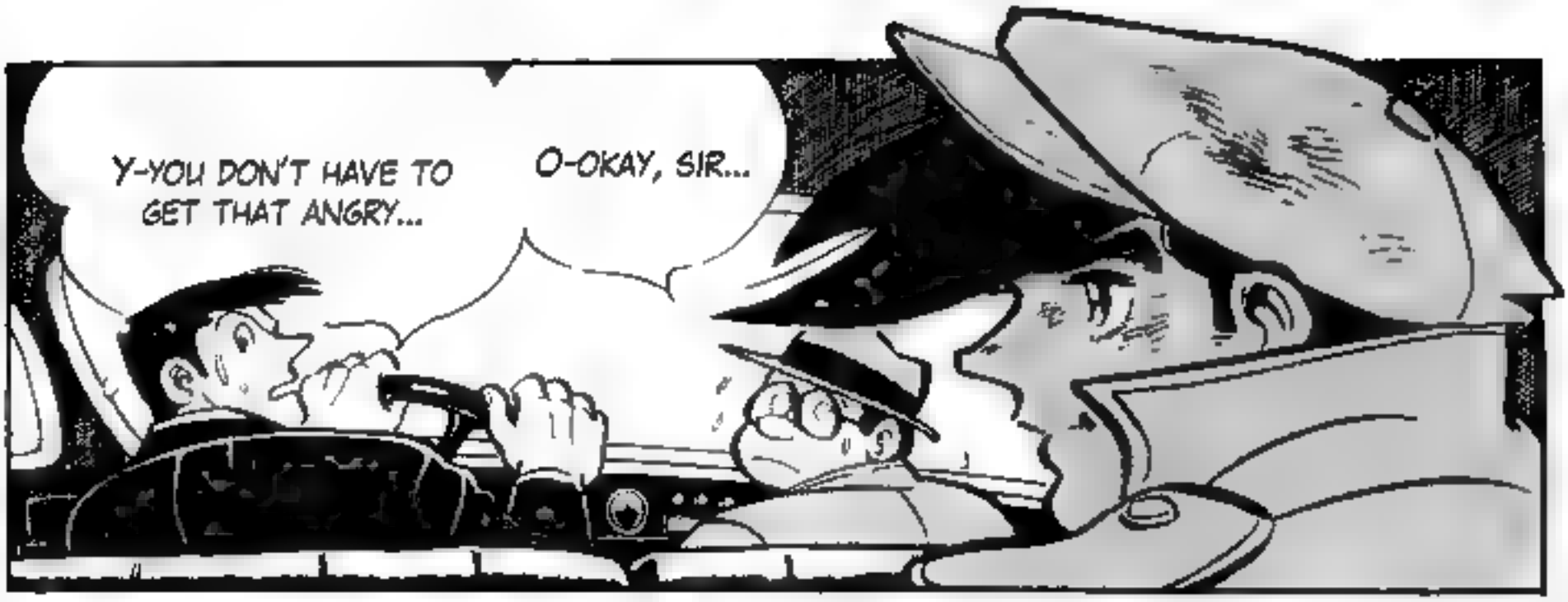
AND IT'S ONLY PROPER MANNERS FOR ME TO PAY RESPECTS TO MY SENIOR,

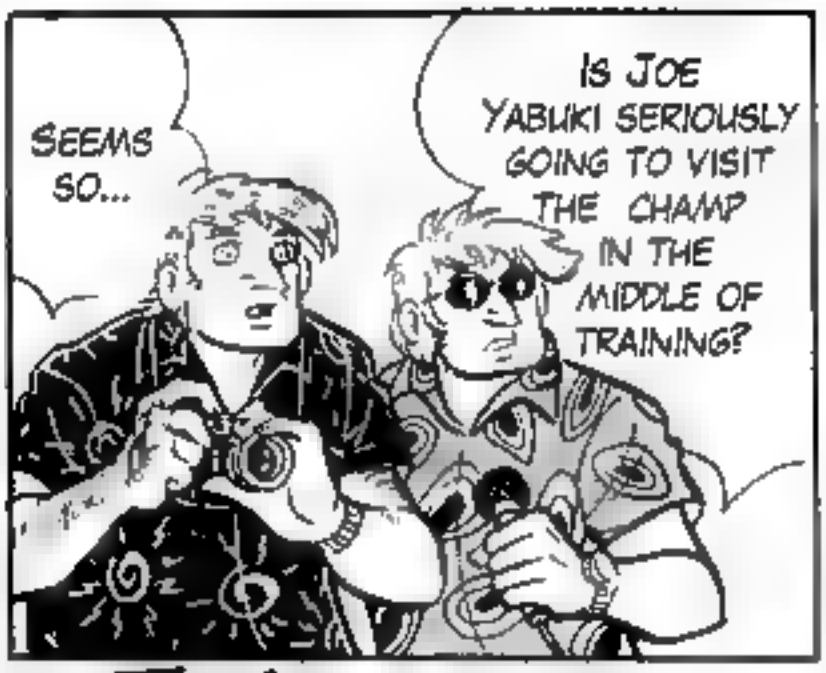
C'MON! STEP ON THE PEDAL!

TAKE ME TO KONAHA GYM RIGHT NOW!

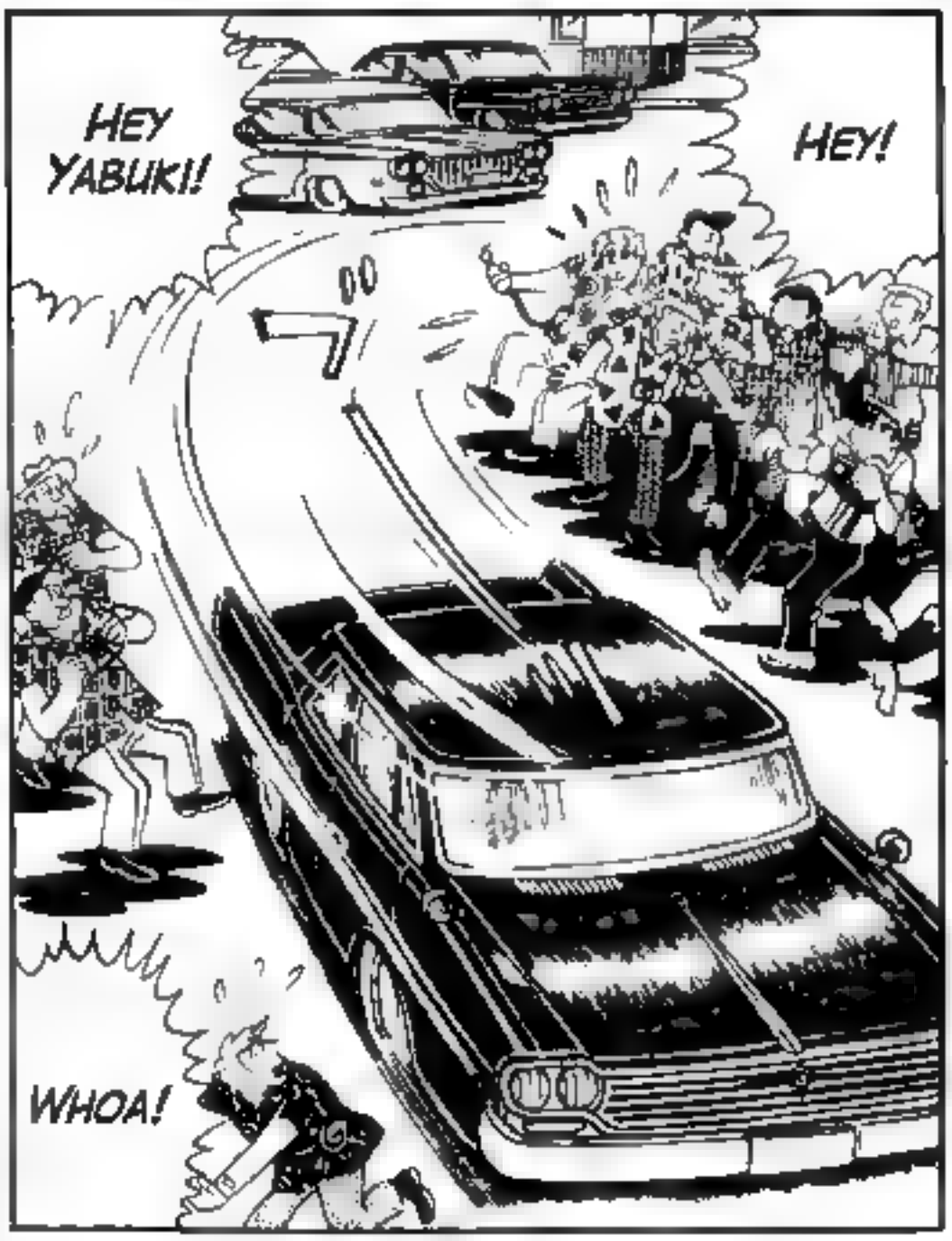
SO LET'S JUST RETURN TO THE HOTEL FOR TODAY.

ON A SMALL ISLAND LIKE THIS, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY RUN INTO HIM EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.


Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET THAT ANGRY...
O-OKAY, SIR...

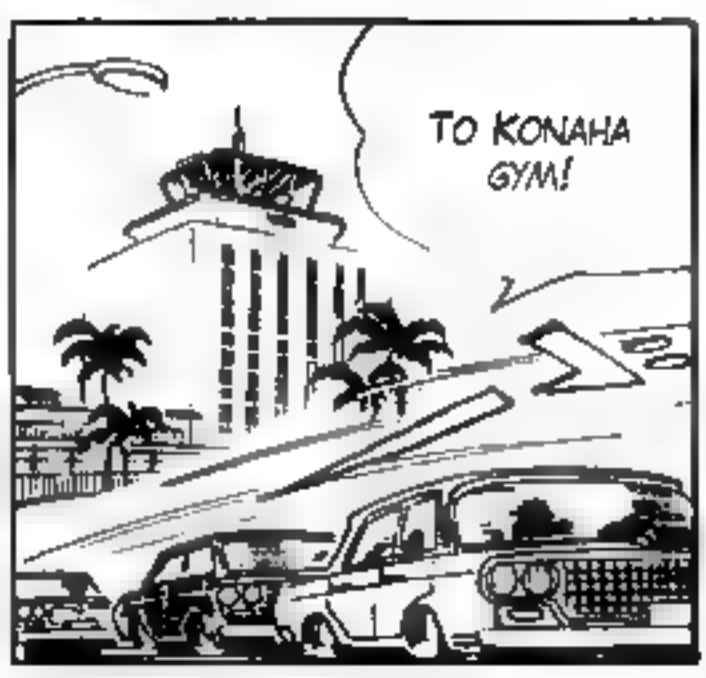

SEEMS SO...
IS JOE YABUKI SERIOUSLY GOING TO VISIT THE CHAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING?

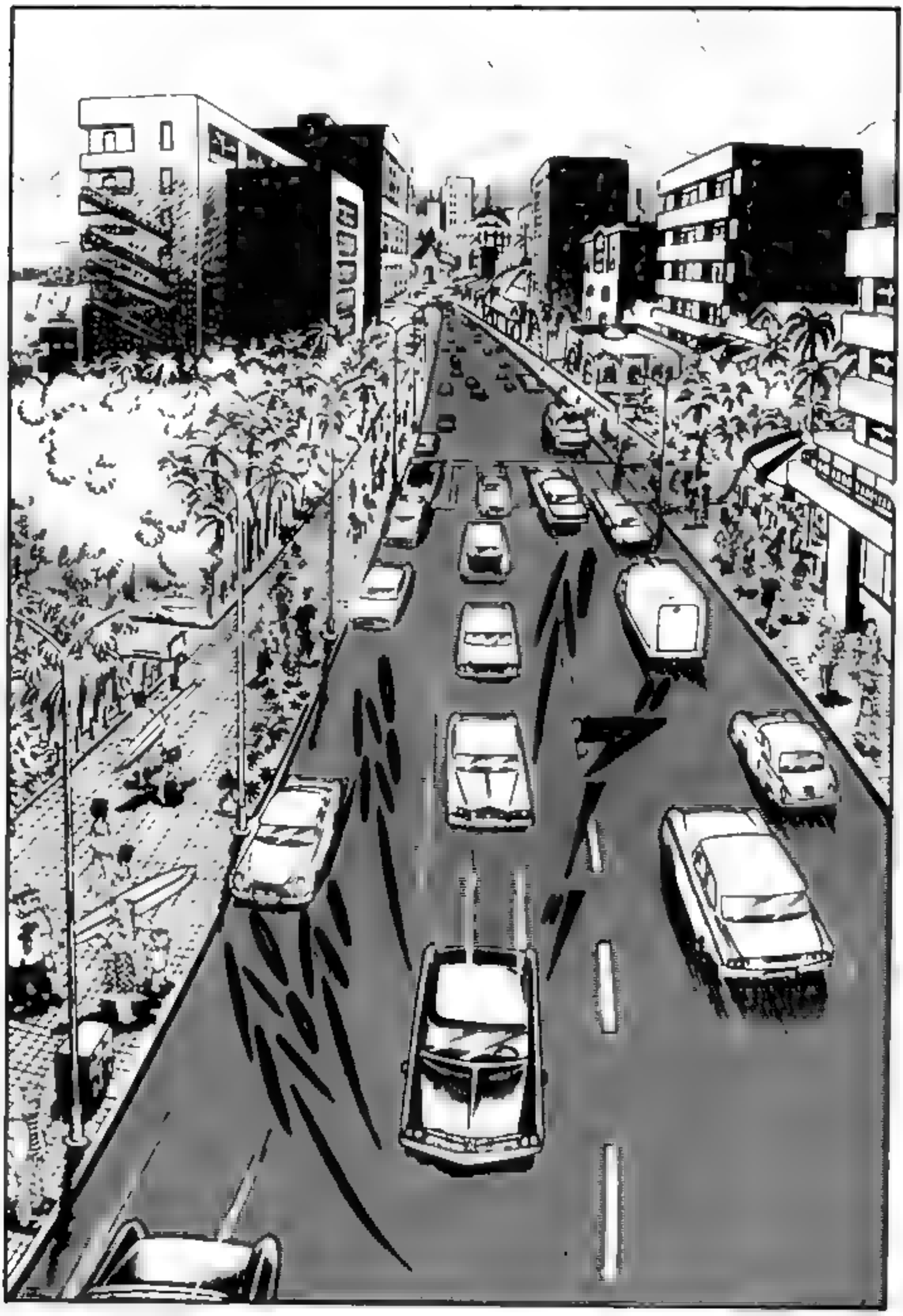
FOUR
GUESS THAT MEANS WE'VE GOTTA GO TOO.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MISS OUT ON THIS!


HEY YABUKI!
HEY!
WHOA!

DAMMIT, I'M ALL SOBERED UP NOW...
HIC

YOU'RE LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON TODAY.
WHAT'S WITH YOU, JOE...


TO KONAHA GYM!



KONAHA GIMNASIUM

SALON



W-WAIT! LET ME COME WITH YOU, JOE!

SO THIS IS KONAHA GYM...

YO!

WHERE'S THE CHAMP!?

OH DEAR...

THAT ATTITUDE'S BOUND TO CAUSE SOME TROUBLE...

AHH!

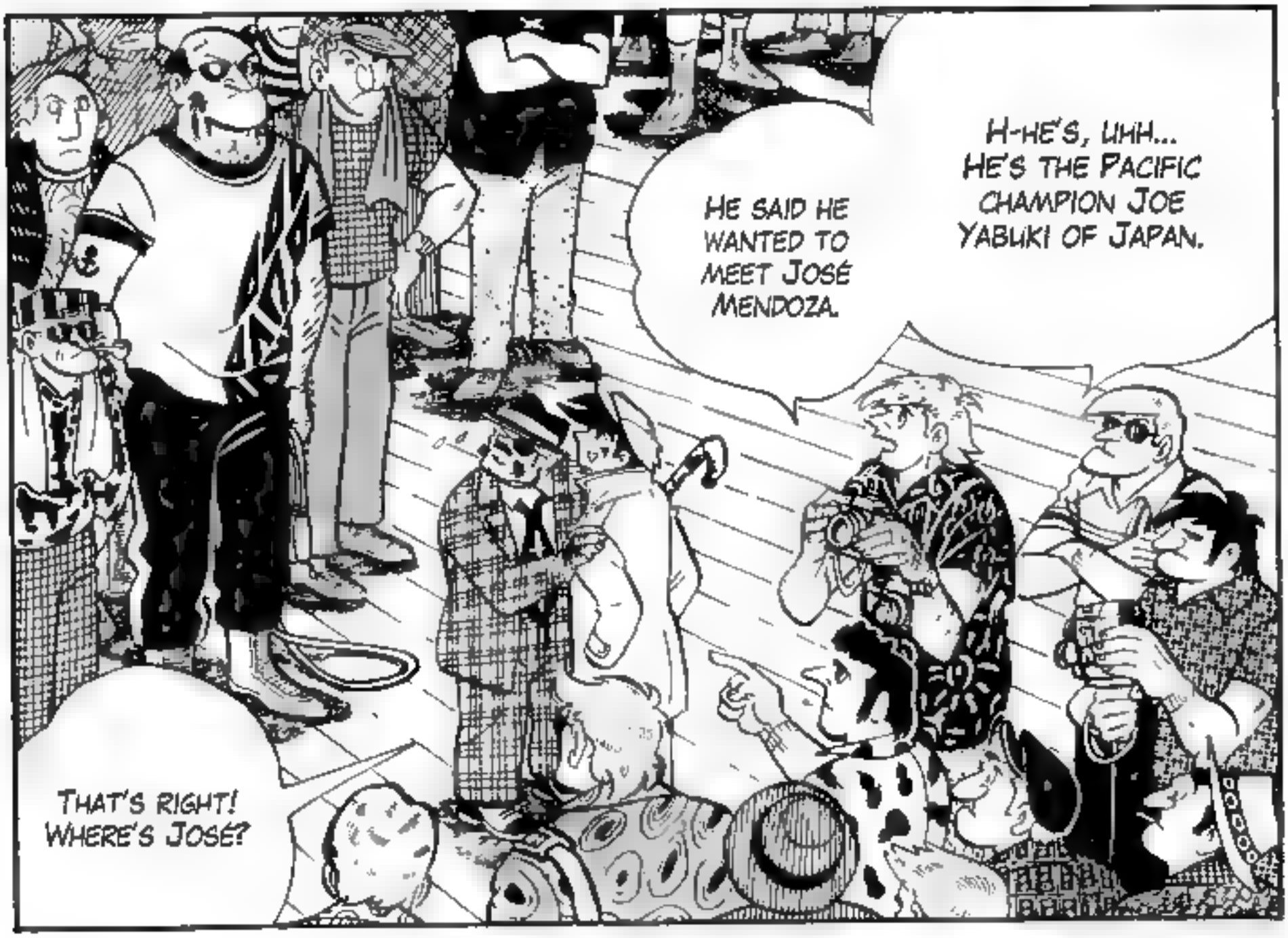
ANYONE HERE SPEAK JAPANESE!?

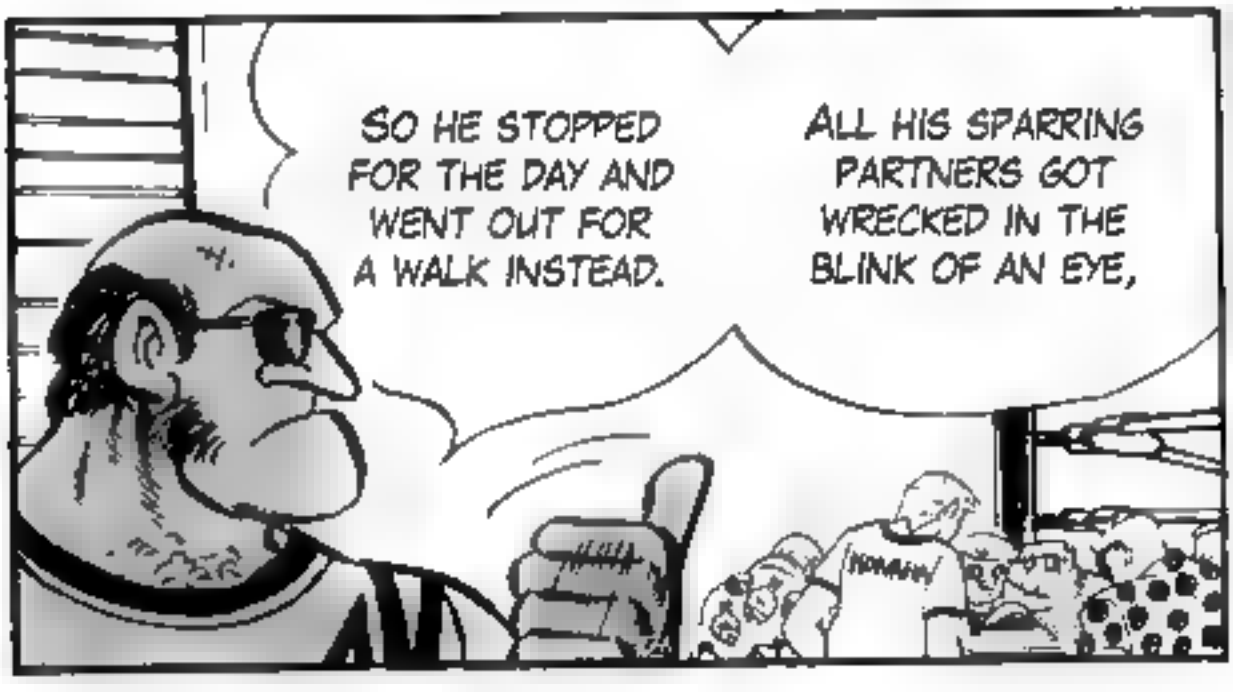
I'M ASKING WHERE MR. JOSÉ IS!

HEY!

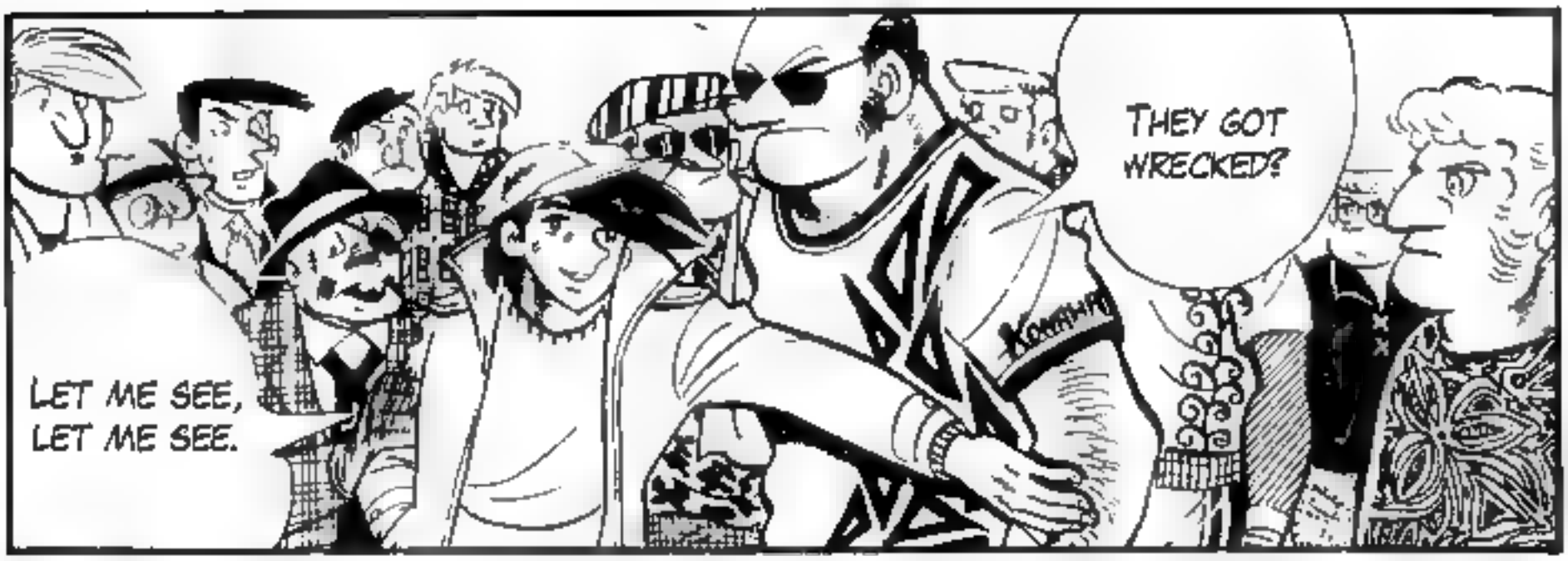
YOU IDIOT, TALK MORE QUIETLY...

WHO'S HE?


H-HE'S, UHH... HE'S THE PACIFIC CHAMPION JOE YABUKI OF JAPAN.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET JOSÉ MENDOZA.
THAT'S RIGHT! WHERE'S JOSÉ?


SO HE STOPPED FOR THE DAY AND WENT OUT FOR A WALK INSTEAD.
ALL HIS SPARRING PARTNERS GOT WRECKED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE,

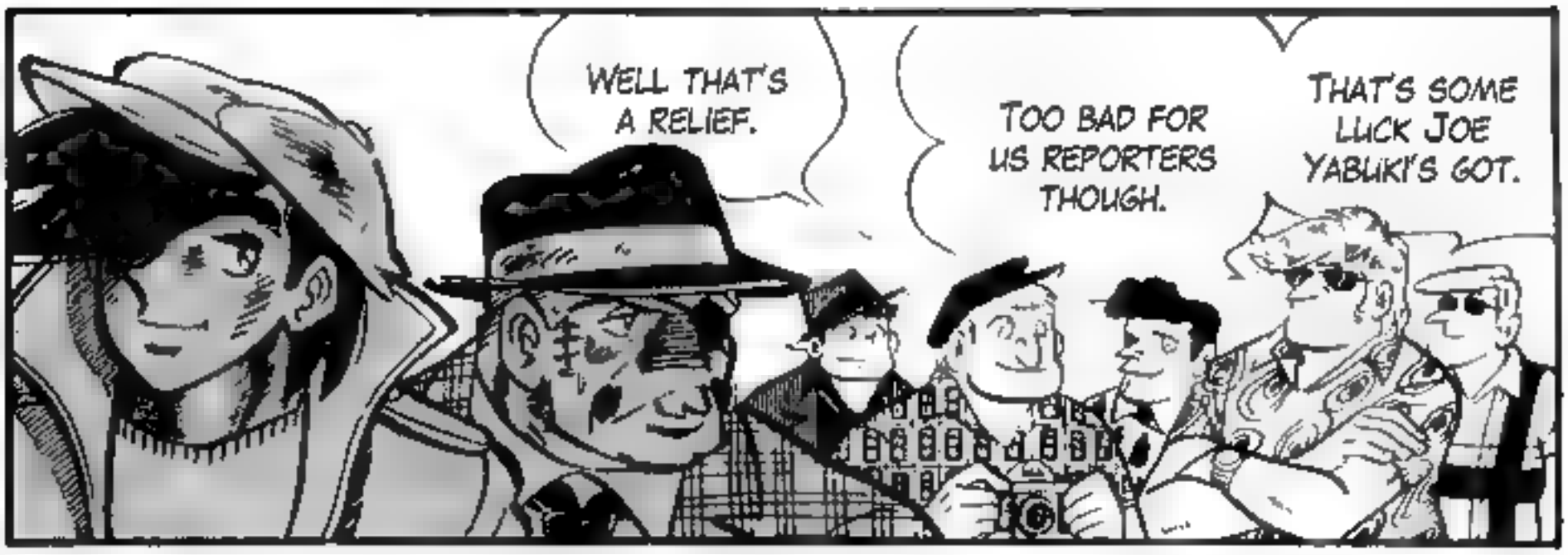
THE CHAMP'S NOT HERE...


LET ME SEE, LET ME SEE.
THEY GOT WRECKED?

HELLO THERE.
'SCUSE ME.

AND AFTER I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO SAY HELLO...
HMPH.

....


WELL THAT'S A RELIEF.
TOO BAD FOR US REPORTERS THOUGH.
THAT'S SOME LUCK JOE YABUKI'S GOT.

SINCE WE'RE HERE AND ALL, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOOK AROUND?

WAIT.
LET'S GO.
W-WELL, YOU HEARD HIM. THE CHAMP'S NOT HERE.


OHH... THIS GYM'S PRETTY FANCY.
CAN'T EVEN COMPARE IT TO OUR GYM, RIGHT OLD MAN?

IT'S FROM JUST SITTING STILL FOR HOURS ON THAT PLANE,

MAYBE,

MIND IF I WORK UP A SWEAT TOO?

AH, HEY THERE.

PLEASE EXCUSE HIM!

SORRY, SORRY!

WHAT THE HELL!?

BUT MY BODY'S JUST ITCHING FOR A GOOD WORK OUT!

HEH HEH. FEELS GREAT.

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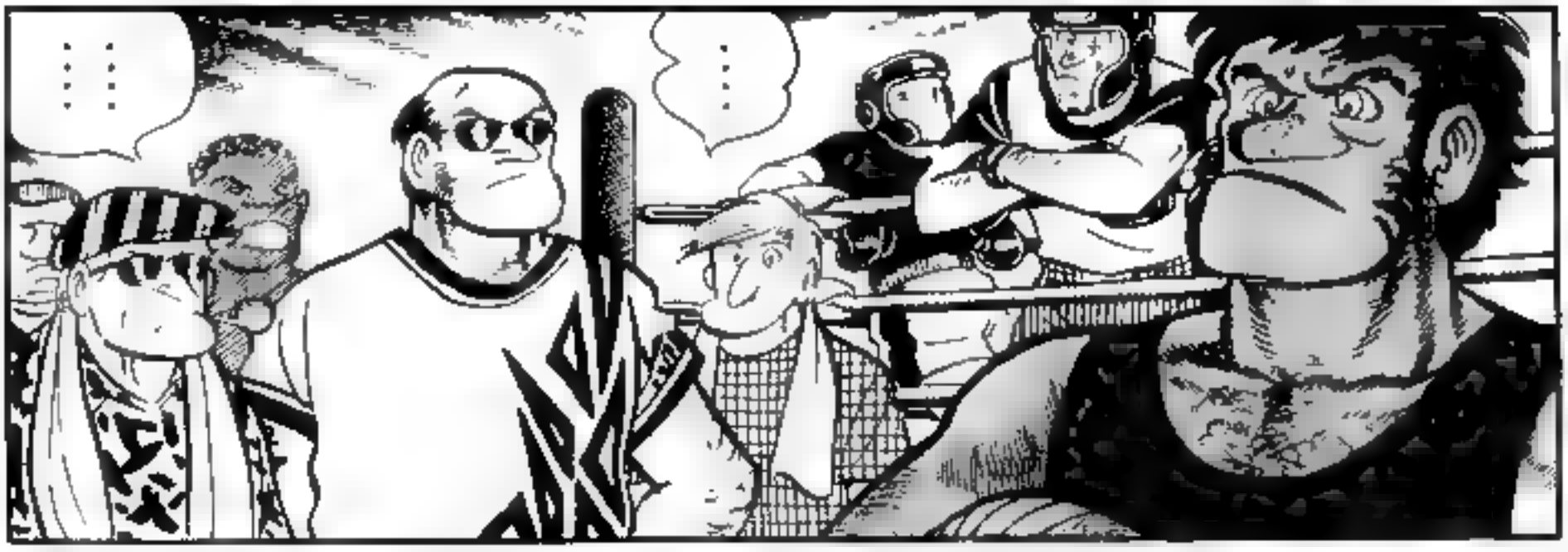
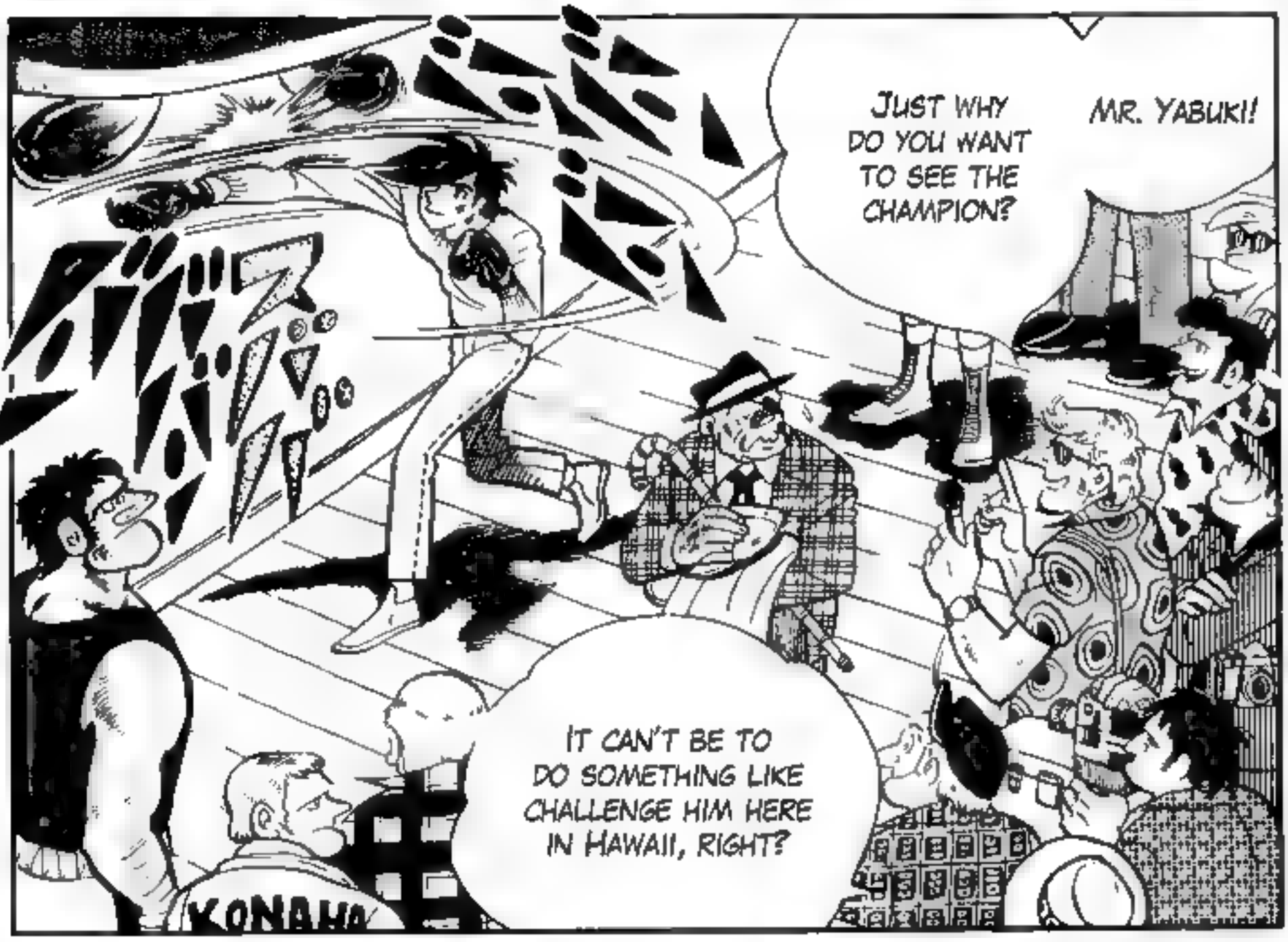
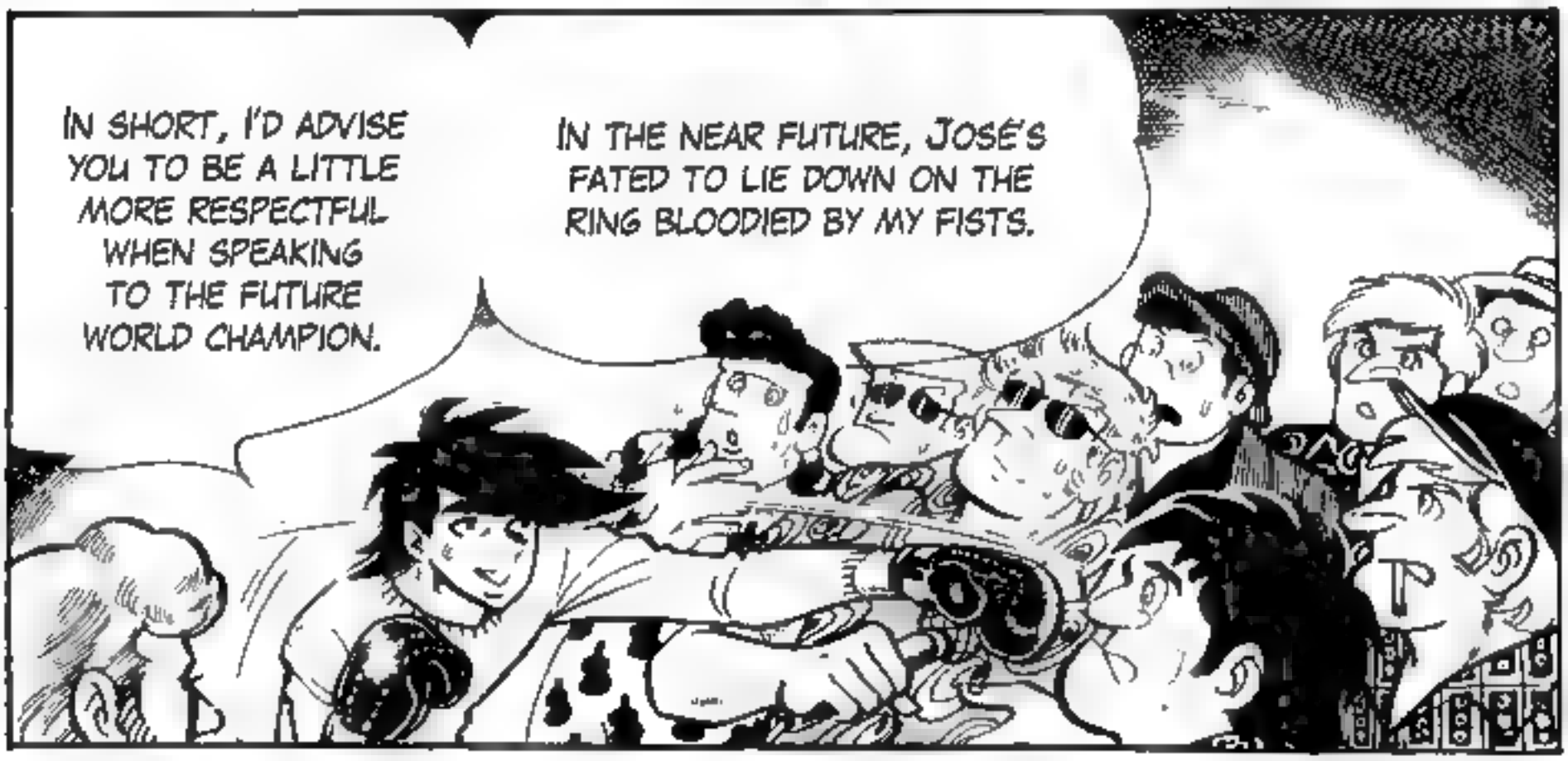
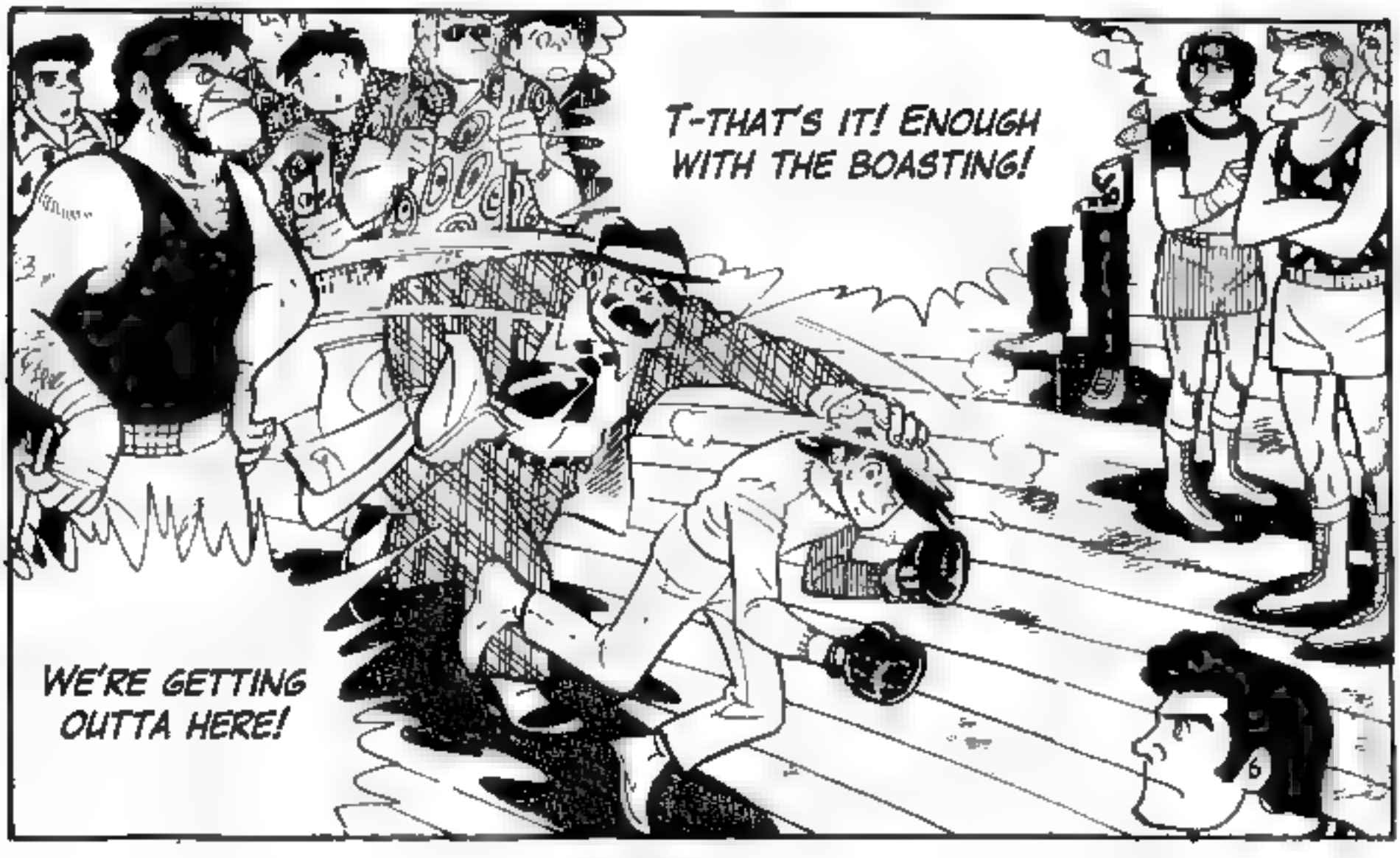



JUST WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE CHAMPION?
MR. YABUKI!
IT CAN'T BE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE CHALLENGE HIM HERE IN HAWAII, RIGHT?
KONAHA

HAHAHAHA!
OOHHH!
DID YOU JUST WANT HIS AUTOGRAPH?

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME...


IN SHORT, I'D ADVISE YOU TO BE A LITTLE MORE RESPECTFUL WHEN SPEAKING TO THE FUTURE WORLD CHAMPION.
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, JOSÉ'S FATED TO LIE DOWN ON THE RING BLOODIED BY MY FISTS.


T-THAT'S IT! ENOUGH WITH THE BOASTING!
WE'RE GETTING OUTTA HERE!

NOW..
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD. WE'LL GO IN DUE TIME.
LET GO OF ME! YOU REEK OF BOOZE!
I CAME HERE TO SEE JOSÉ TODAY,
I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR ANY SPECIAL REASON.
NOT
DO ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RIVERA?
SO I COULD ASK IF HE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO CARLOS RIVERA, THE ONE HE FOUGHT IN VENEZUELA RECENTLY.
CARLOS RIVERA..?

NO. KIND OF A SHAME, SINCE THAT PANTHER OF THE RING USED TO HAVE EVERY REPORTER'S ATTENTION.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS THESE DAYS?

BEATS ME.

OHH, THE GUY WHO PEOPLE USED TO CALL THE UNCROWNED EMPEROR OF VENEZUELA...

HM...

HMM...

TRAGIC, REALLY...

I GUESS HE'S ALREADY FADED AWAY INTO THE DISTANT PAST ONCE HE WAS CRIPPLED AND FORCED TO RETIRE.

DYNAMITE

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT... LET'S GO TO THE HOTEL NOW...

PACKED MATCH

10R. OF VOLCANIC POWER-

NON TITLE ACTION

# HOSE MENDOZA

WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION

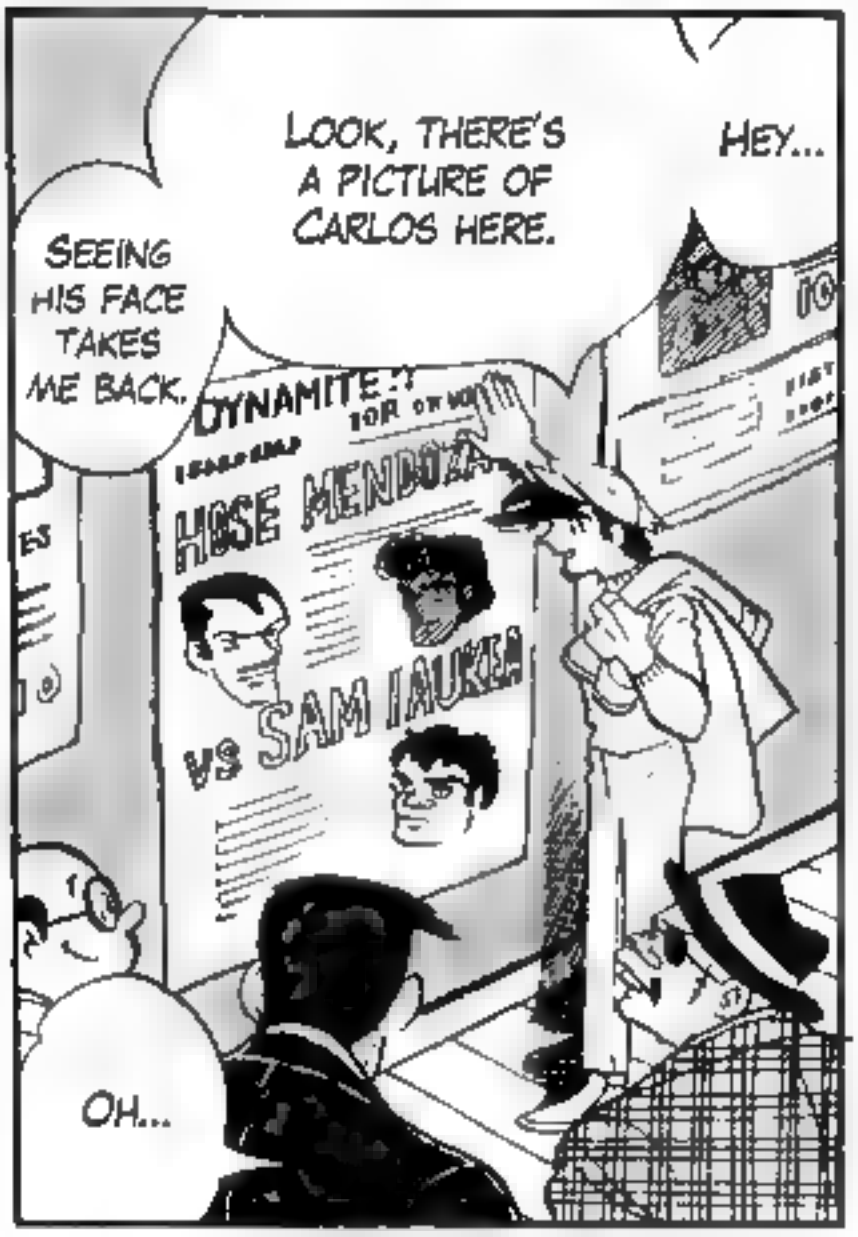
THE GREAT MAN WHO KNOCKED OUT AND FINISHED THE CAREER OF CARLOS LIBERA CONSIDERED THE UN-CROWNED CHAMPION BEFORE THE BELL FOR ROUND ONE HAD STOPPED RINGINIG !!

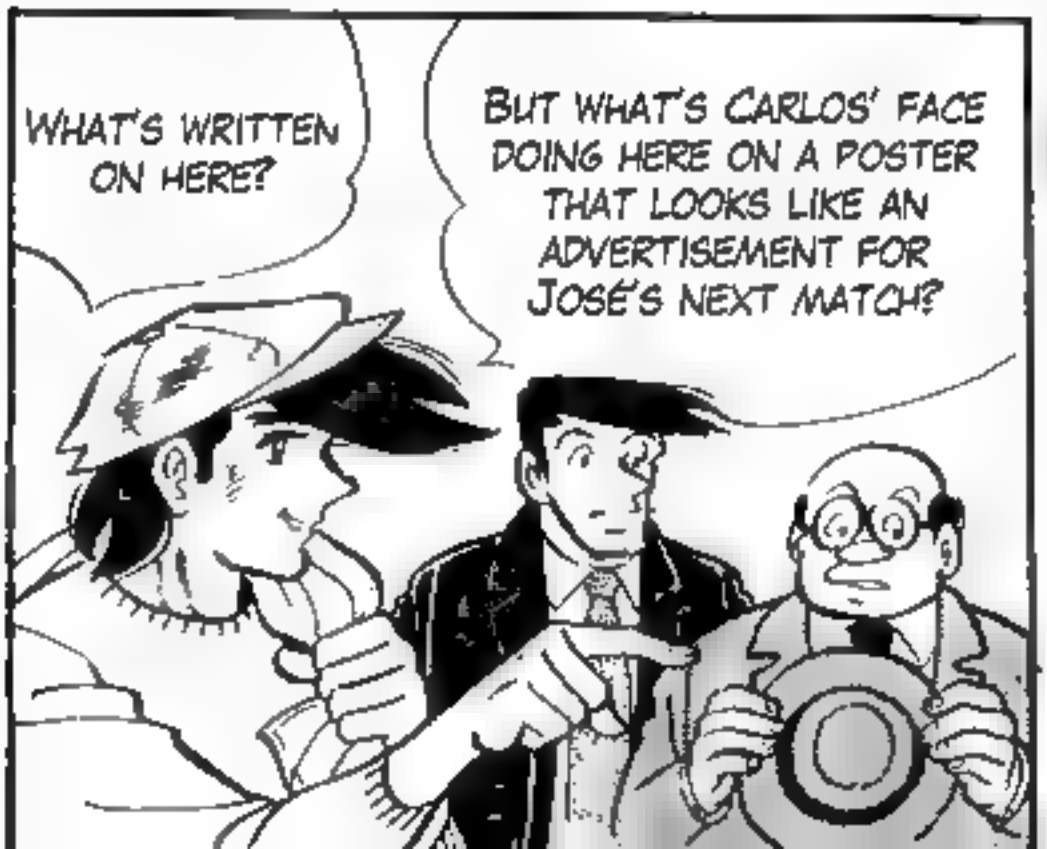
# VS SAM IAUKEA

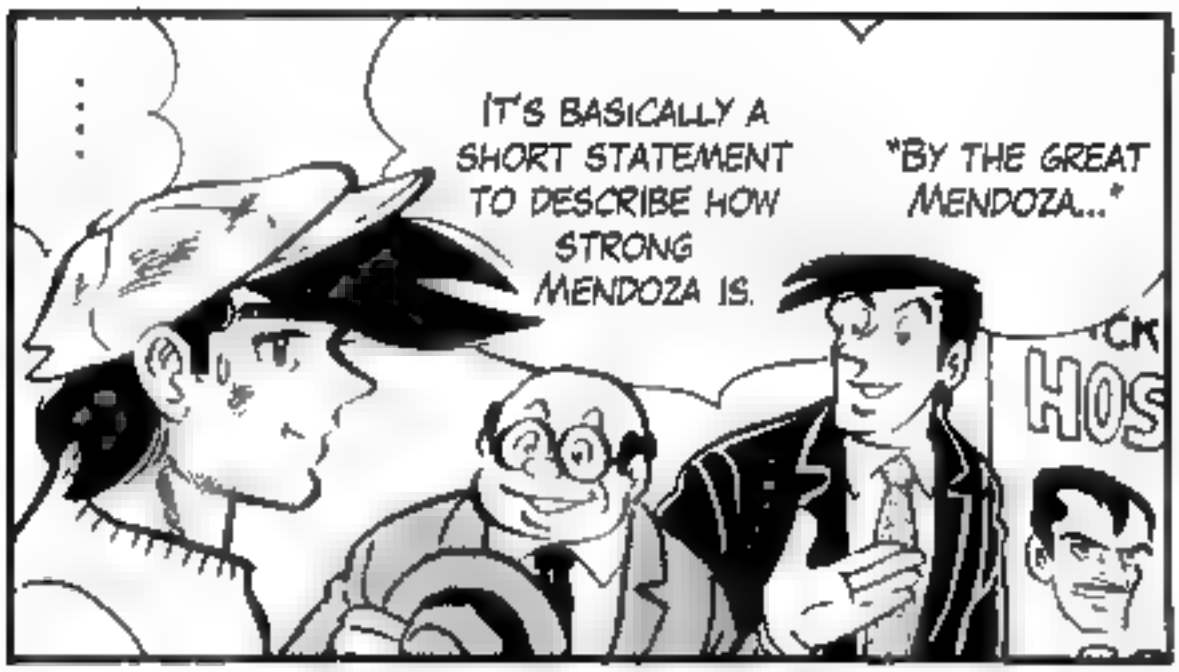
FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPION OF HAWAII

THE HAWAIIAN HERO
FUTURE WORLD CHAMPION
AND UNDEFEATED IN 24 BOUTS

PEER
A
E UN-
MPION
LL EOR

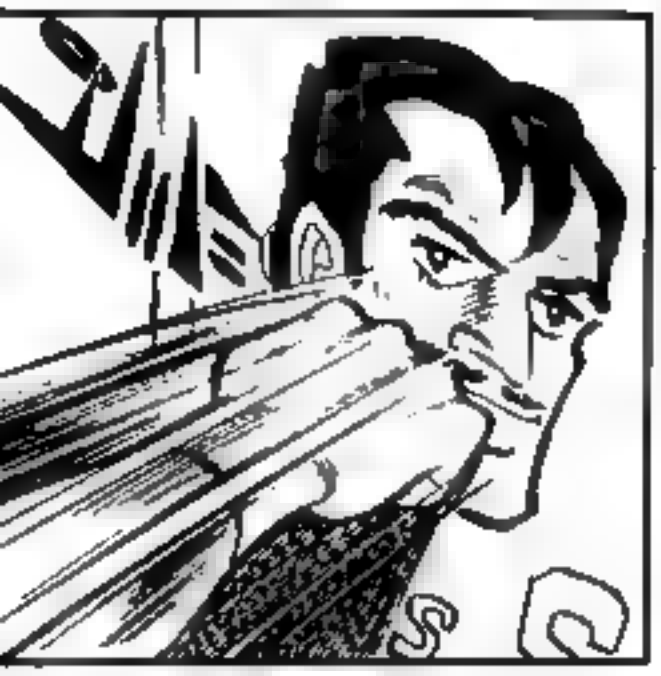



. . . .
IT'S BASICALLY A SHORT STATEMENT TO DESCRIBE HOW STRONG MENDOZA IS.
"BY THE GREAT MENDOZA..."
HOS

"THE UNCROWNED EMPEROR CARLOS RIVERA WAS KO'D IMMEDIATELY IN THE FIRST ROUND,"
UMM...

HAHAHA!
HEE HEE
YOU BETTER RUN AWAY FROM THIS GYM IF YOU DON'T WANNA SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS RIVERA!
HEY, KID.



JOSÉ MENDOZA AIN'T NOTHIN'.

NOISY PRICKS...

HEY, REPORTERS.

THAT IS, IF HE'S NOT TOO CHICKEN SHIT TO PISS HIS PANTS WHEN HE SEES HOW STRONG I AM.

Y-YOU IDIOT!

SO COULD YOU TELL HIM TO COME WATCH MY MATCH?

ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE, I'LL BE HAVING MY MATCH A WEEK EARLIER THAN JOSÉ,

KONAMI GIMN

I SAID LET GO!

LET ME GO! I AIN'T DONE TALKIN' TO THE REPORTERS!

WHAT THE HELL!

G-GET HIM BACK INTO THE CAR!

HELP ME OUT HERE, GENTS!

HE PARTICULARLY DESPISES LOUD-MOUTHED BRAGGARTS.

AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE CHAMPION CAN BE QUITE HIGH-STRUNG.

IT'S BEST IF YOU NEVER MADE ANOTHER JOKE LIKE THAT AGAIN, MR. YABUKI.

YOU'RE PROBABLY JOKING BUT,

I'M A LOUD-MOUTHED WHAT NOW!?

THE MAN THOUGHT TO BE MENDOZA'S GREATEST OPPONENT, WAS KO'D SO EASILY AND CRIPPLED WAS BECAUSE OF MENDOZA'S OWN SKILLS!

YOU'RE ALL MAKING A BIG MISTAKE! A BIG MISTAKE IF YOU THINK THE WHOLE REASON WHY CARLOS RIVERA,

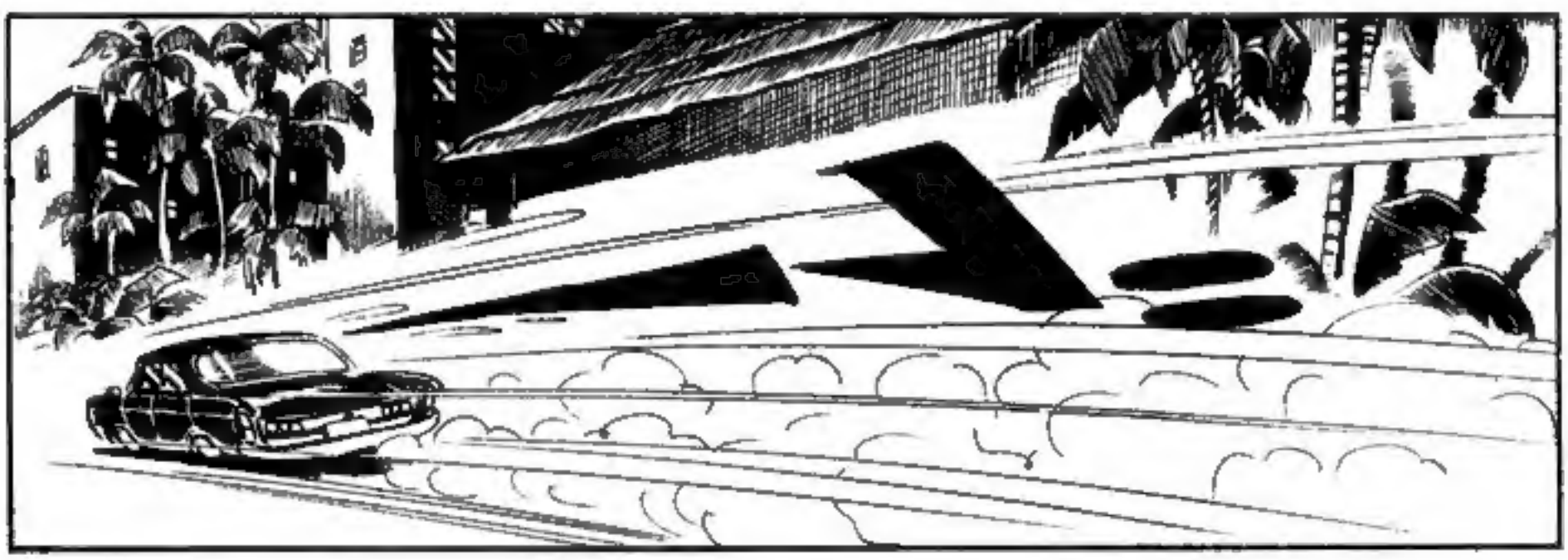
AND LET'S GET ONE THING CLEAR NOW!

S-STOP IT, JOE...!

YOU MIGHT'VE HEARD THE RUMOURS, BUT CARLOS RIVERA WAS ALREADY PUNCH-DRUNK AFTER FIGHTING ME IN TOKYO!

SO IT'S THE TWO OF US THAT MADE CARLOS' CRUSHING DEFEAT POSSIBLE!

STEP ON THE GAS! QUICKLY!



I'LL KILL THAT SON OF A BITCH.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO USE THAT FOR ADVERTISING MATERIAL ON HIS LITTLE POSTER.

WHY YOU GOTTA THRASH ABOUT LIKE A WILD BULL!?

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!?

THAT BASTARD... CALLING HIMSELF THE MAN WHO DESTROYED RIVERA...

I'LL PASS ON THE MESSAGE IN YOUR EXACT WORDS TO THE EXTREMELY PROUD WORLD CHAMPION, JOSÉ MENDOZA...!

FINE, HAVE IT YOUR WAY, MR. YABUKI...

THAT JAP'S ONE MOUTHY PUNK.

WORLD BA

THE GREAT MAN WHO
FINISHED THE CAREE
OF CARLOS LIBERA
CONSIDERED THE
CROWNED CHAMPION
BEFORE THE BELL
ROUND ONE HAD S
RINGINIG !!

CLEANING: HAPPYSCANS
TRANSLATOR: HOX
TYPESETTERS: ARLES, CHESTNUT,
CRAZY_HORSE, NETHANDLE

あなたは、この本を読んで、どんな感想をおもちになりましたか。

編集部では、この本についての読者のみなさまのご意見をおまちしています。

このつぎには、どんな作家のどんな漫画を読みたいと、お考えですか。「KCデラックス」にしてほしいと思う作品がありましたら、「読後の感想」とあわせて、左記あてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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